AMERICAN NUMISMATIC RARITIES, LLC

THE CLASSICS SALE

JULY 25, 2003

This Spectacular 1879 Flowing Hair $4 Stella, Proof-67 (PCGS), astounded the audience at $293,250

THE *Classics* SALE

JULY 25, 2003 • BALTIMORE

Total Realized: Over $5.5 Million

American Numismatic Rarities, LLC of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire presented its first ever auction, The Classics Sale, to a standing-room only gallery on July 25, in one of the most active auctions in recent memory. The 1,068 lot live event realized over $5.5 million in total, including a 15% buyer's premium.

A Spectacular 1864 Proof Set featuring this extraordinary dollar graded Proof-68 (NGC) sold for $163,300

LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
2	8,625.00	69	1,840.00	117	1,610.00	159	483.00	203	1,092.50	255	11,212.50	298	805.00	348	1,495.00
3	4,715.00	70	1,150.00	118	368.00	160	1,610.00	206	483.00	256	3,105.00	299	661.25	349	1,035.00
5	3,680.00	71	948.75	119	2,070.00	161	3,680.00	207	3,450.00	257	920.00	301	3,910.00	350	1,610.00
6	4,140.00	72	1,265.00	120	1,092.50	162	189.75	208	552.00	258	1,610.00	302	4,140.00	351	4,140.00
7	1,495.00	74	5,290.00	121	7,475.00	163	862.50	210	414.00	259	690.00	303	1,092.50	352	2,530.00
8	1,092.50	76	2,875.00	122	172.50	164	437.00	211	3,220.00	260	575.00	306	2,530.00	353	4,140.00
9	747.50	77	1,495.00	123	1,265.00	165	253.00	212	92.00	262	2,760.00	307	7,475.00	355	632.50
11	4,370.00	79	3,105.00	125	546.25	166	1,150.00	213	414.00	263	805.00	308	8,625.00	356	1,897.50
12	2,185.00	81	971.75	126	431.25	167	437.00	215	1,380.00	264	1,265.00	309	5,520.00	357	3,335.00
13	3,450.00	82	1,552.50	127	431.25	168	161.00	217	506.00	265	977.50	311	977.50	358	1,265.00
14	3,392.50	83	5,290.00	128	920.00	169	862.50	219	437.00	266	3,220.00	312	1,380.00	359	1,150.00
15	3,450.00	85	1,265.00	129	575.00	170	3,680.00	220	1,150.00	267	4,370.00	313	4,255.00	360	1,495.00
17	184.00	86	3,105.00	130	977.50	171	920.00	221	805.00	268	1,265.00	314	3,680.00	361	1,265.00
18	632.50	87	3,910.00	131	862.50	172	1,955.00	222	1,840.00	269	805.00	315	5,060.00	362	3,795.00
24	747.50	90	2,530.00	132	4,600.00	173	862.50	225	5,290.00	270	747.50	316	35,650.00	363	2,070.00
25	575.00	91	2,990.00	133	1,610.00	174	690.00	226	5,002.50	271	805.00	318	8,050.00	364	1,265.00
27	414.00	92	8,337.50	134	1,150.00	175	557.75	228	1,610.00	272	690.00	319	2,070.00	365	1,035.00
28	632.50	93	2,990.00	135	1,725.00	176	747.50	230	632.50	273	1,265.00	320	4,140.00	366	1,092.50
32	3,680.00	94	2,185.00	136	1,955.00	177	1,725.00	231	149.50	274	1,150.00	321	7,762.50	367	1,092.50
33	828.00	95	747.50	140	34,500.00	178	1,265.00	232	345.00	275	718.75	322	4,255.00	368	1,207.50
35	632.50	98	5,520.00	141	862.50	180	690.00	233	356.50	276	1,092.50	323	6,900.00	369	1,610.00
36	920.00	100	5,980.00	142	1,840.00	181	1,092.50	235	805.00	277	1,092.50	324	2,300.00	370	1,207.50
39	747.50	101	1,150.00	143	1,380.00	182	460.00	236	253.00	278	1,955.00	325	920.00	371	1,380.00
40	690.00	102	9,200.00	144	1,092.50	183	1,495.00	237	207.00	280	1,495.00	326	3,910.00	372	1,610.00
42	621.00	103	8,625.00	145	2,530.00	184	718.75	241	161.00	281	805.00	327	14,375.00	373	977.50
43	1,265.00	104	3,910.00	146	21,850.00	185	1,265.00	242	115.00	282	529.00	329	920.00	374	1,725.00
44	977.50	105	115,000.00	147	1,955.00	186	1,150.00	243	149.50	283	1,495.00	332	2,070.00	375	1,380.00
48	2,185.00	106	920.00	148	1,495.00	189	2,990.00	244	138.00	284	862.50	335	2,415.00	376	805.00
49	632.50	107	52,900.00	149	1,265.00	190	690.00	245	138.00	285	862.50	337	1,955.00	377	805.00
54	2,300.00	108	747.50	150	4,370.00	192	1,092.50	246	207.00	286	977.50	338	6,210.00	378	1,495.00
61	529.00	109	506.00	151	862.50	194	1,380.00	247	103.50	287	1,955.00	340	3,680.00	380	1,725.00
62	747.50	110	977.50	152	1,955.00	195	1,495.00	248	253.00	289	632.50	341	18,400.00	383	2,300.00
63	2,760.00	111	425.50	153	1,380.00	196	2,300.00	249	69.00	290	5,750.00	342	25,300.00	385	1,840.00
64	2,530.00	112	3,220.00	154	2,760.00	197	552.00	250	172.50	291	2,070.00	343	2,645.00	387	4,830.00
65	2,990.00	113	1,092.50	155	3,680.00	198	1,495.00	251	1,092.50	292	5,750.00	344	4,830.00	388	3,680.00
66	5,750.00	114	4,600.00	156	575.00	199	1,006.25	252	368.00	293	3,220.00	345	1,495.00	389	9,775.00
67	2,530.00	115	5,750.00	157	161.00	200	2,300.00	253	1,495.00	296	1,495.00	346	1,840.00	391	1,150.00
68	7,590.00	116	23,000.00	158	747.50	201	4,140.00	254	20,700.00	297	977.50	347	2,070.00	392	4,082.50

All prices listed include the 15% buyer's fee

LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
393	1,840.00	484	11,500.00	600	1,150.00	665	69,000.00	728	23,000.00	791	2,012.50	847	437.00	948	575.00
394	2,760.00	485	4,255.00	602	10,350.00	666	747.50	729	2,185.00	792	2,012.50	848	506.00	954	1,150.00
396	1,495.00	486	1,328.25	609	21,850.00	667	1,207.50	730	862.50	793	1,610.00	849	517.50	955	603.75
398	4,140.00	487	2,415.00	614	1,265.00	668	1,495.00	731	2,185.00	794	2,070.00	851	977.50	957	891.25
399	4,600.00	489	3,680.00	615	5,060.00	669	13,052.50	732	8,050.00	795	1,581.25	852	4,025.00	962	2,012.50
400	1,610.00	490	4,600.00	616	2,990.00	670	1,150.00	733	1,265.00	796	2,070.00	853	19,550.00	976	2,530.00
401	1,380.00	491	2,070.00	617	20,700.00	671	1,265.00	736	12,650.00	798	977.50	854	736.00	977	1,265.00
402	2,530.00	494	7,475.00	618	3,220.00	672	3,220.00	737	14,950.00	799	52,900.00	855	3,105.00	979	2,875.00
403	2,760.00	495	2,185.00	619	3,220.00	673	5,750.00	738	21,850.00	800	2,645.00	856	4,600.00	980	2,300.00
405	6,210.00	496	3,565.00	621	862.50	674	5,520.00	739	12,650.00	801	3,450.00	857	1,265.00	981	7,590.00
406	5,750.00	498	2,185.00	623	1,495.00	675	2,156.25	740	862.50	802	1,610.00	858	1,495.00	982	1,725.00
407	2,760.00	499	4,370.00	624	92,000.00	676	1,811.25	741	690.00	803	1,092.50	859	1,955.00	983	5,290.00
408	1,265.00	500	2,300.00	625	34,500.00	677	3,191.25	743	13,800.00	804	98,900.00	860	1,035.00	984	3,910.00
409	529.00	501	2,185.00	626	34,500.00	678	3,220.00	746	8,050.00	805	27,600.00	861	632.50	987	1,610.00
410	2,012.50	502	1,610.00	627	5,750.00	679	1,380.00	749	17,250.00	806	14,950.00	862	8,050.00	988	4,600.00
412	9,775.00	503	3,220.00	628	5,060.00	681	1,495.00	750	920.00	807	9,200.00	863	2,760.00	989	2,070.00
413	5,290.00	504	1,265.00	629	34,500.00	683	1,104.00	751	1,035.00	808	10,350.00	864	1,667.50	991	4,025.00
414	5,175.00	505	5,635.00	630	9,200.00	684	39,100.00	752	1,840.00	809	1,380.00	865	23,000.00	992	1,265.00
415	2,760.00	506	3,220.00	631	2,587.50	685	2,530.00	753	8,050.00	810	1,955.00	866	2,760.00	995	10,925.00
417	2,530.00	507	2,990.00	632	8,912.50	686	35,650.00	754	1,782.50	811	2,185.00	867	2,070.00	996	14,950.00
418	3,450.00	508	2,185.00	633	7,130.00	687	1,178.75	755	17,250.00	812	2,070.00	868	2,185.00	997	2,530.00
419	4,600.00	509	3,680.00	634	1,380.00	688	1,782.50	756	1,495.00	813	2,070.00	869	7,360.00	1000	4,140.00
420	1,610.00	510	4,830.00	635	13,800.00	691	17,250.00	757	747.50	814	2,070.00	870	10,925.00	1001	8,625.00
421	3,450.00	511	1,840.00	636	12,650.00	692	9,775.00	761	1,150.00	815	2,070.00	871	5,750.00	1011	5,520.00
422	9,200.00	512	2,990.00	637	12,650.00	693	293,250.00	762	1,840.00	816	6,037.50	872	2,185.00	1012	4,255.00
423	2,070.00	513	3,910.00	638	13,800.00	694	103,500.00	763	2,760.00	817	6,210.00	873	1,955.00	1013	12,075.00
424	9,200.00	514	3,910.00	639	16,675.00	695	11,500.00	764	920.00	818	1,495.00	875	3,680.00	1015	4,025.00
425	4,140.00	515	3,680.00	640	17,250.00	696	5,060.00	765	25,300.00	819	2,501.25	876	2,760.00	1016	13,800.00
426	2,070.00	516	1,955.00	641	9,775.00	697	35,650.00	766	39,100.00	822	1,150.00	877	1,811.25	1018	6,210.00
428	2,702.50	517	1,725.00	642	12,650.00	699	52,900.00	767	1,437.50	823	2,415.00	878	2,760.00	1020	3,450.00
429	2,645.00	518	4,140.00	643	241,500.00	700	1,207.50	768	1,610.00	824	2,070.00	879	2,760.00	1025	8,740.00
430	1,840.00	519	3,450.00	644	5,060.00	701	6,440.00	769	4,600.00	826	1,035.00	880	2,990.00	1027	9,200.00
432	6,210.00	520	2,645.00	645	2,300.00	702	10,062.50	770	1,265.00	827	557.75	881	2,760.00	1028	2,990.00
433	747.50	521	1,667.50	646	11,500.00	703	1,495.00	771	1,955.00	828	17,250.00	882	2,760.00	1029	3,680.00
434	10,925.00	522	1,035.00	647	9,200.00	704	20,700.00	773	1,840.00	830	1,495.00	883	2,760.00	1033	55,200.00
436	2,070.00	523	3,910.00	648	5,060.00	705	4,370.00	774	1,840.00	831	1,449.00	884	4,600.00	1036	7,935.00
437	2,530.00	524	20,700.00	649	12,650.00	708	21,850.00	775	1,782.50	832	977.50	885	3,680.00	1037	2,530.00
438	2,645.00	526	3,220.00	650	16,100.00	709	6,900.00	776	1,012.00	833	632.50	886	4,600.00	1038	3,450.00
439	10,350.00	527	4,370.00	651	6,440.00	710	529.00	777	1,840.00	834	2,788.75	887	2,990.00	1041	23,000.00
440	2,300.00	528	74,750.00	652	13,800.00	712	8,050.00	779	1,725.00	835	2,530.00	893	178,250.00	1043	13,225.00
441	6,670.00	531	24,150.00	653	488.75	716	747.50	780	1,150.00	837	9,775.00	894	690.00	1045	15,525.00
442	3,220.00	532	4,140.00	654	1,207.50	719	1,121.25	781	2,760.00	838	3,450.00	896	10,982.50	1046	3,910.00
443	2,760.00	535	11,500.00	655	12,650.00	720	1,840.00	782	862.50	839	661.25	900	14,950.00	1047	10,925.00
444	4,140.00	536	13,800.00	657	9,775.00	721	1,006.25	783	1,322.50	840	402.50	903	460.00	1048	9,200.00
445	1,495.00	539	2,530.00	658	13,800.00	722	1,955.00	784	1,265.00	841	437.00	904	575.00	1049	11,500.00
446	1,092.50	540	59,800.00	659	391.00	723	2,530.00	786	13,800.00	842	552.00	905	437.00	1052	2,300.00
447	1,610.00	541	5,520.00	660	4,370.00	724	977.50	787	1,322.50	843	891.25	906	483.00	1053	4,370.00
448	920.00	542	8,740.00	661	13,800.00	725	16,100.00	788	805.00	844	747.50	907	437.00	1054	14,950.00
449	460.00	543	12,650.00	663	4,830.00	726	13,800.00	789	2,530.00	845	920.00	908	920.00	1055	3,220.00
451	1,495.00	544	86,250.00	664	1,092.50	727	1,610.00	790	1,506.50	846	862.50	909	747.50	1057	16,100.00
452	977.50	545	5,175.00									910	575.00	1058	9,085.00
453	1,610.00	548	2,760.00									911	920.00	1059	8,050.00
454	1,955.00	549	2,760.00									912	1,265.00	1061	4,140.00
457	8,050.00	552	18,975.00									913	437.00	1062	16,100.00
459	7,590.00	553	32,200.00									914	747.50	1063	13,800.00
461	8,050.00	554	2,530.00									915	1,035.00	1064	8,510.00
462	8,625.00	555	5,290.00									916	2,990.00	1065	7,130.00
463	977.50	556	4,485.00									917	575.00	1067	12,650.00
465	2,415.00	558	632.50									918	575.00	2002	345.00
466	862.50	560	6,440.00									919	977.50	2003	460.00
467	2,530.00	562	747.50									920	920.00	2012	345.00
469	5,750.00	563	2,530.00									921	1,035.00	2020	483.00
471	3,910.00	564	1,265.00									922	920.00	2049	379.50
472	1,955.00	565	6,210.00									923	11,500.00	2050	402.50
473	9,200.00	567	12,650.00									927	632.50	2076	356.50
476	2,645.00	568	12,650.00									929	690.00	2078	345.00
478	12,650.00	569	9,775.00									933	4,370.00	2089	471.50
479	2,530.00	570	3,105.00									934	3,795.00	2097	460.00
480	3,737.50	578	163,300.00									935	690.00	2124	391.00
481	1,265.00	589	284,050.00									937	483.00	2125	276.00
483	977.50	599	160,488.25									946	1,265.00		

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC RARITIES, LLC

Upcoming Auction Events

September 13, 2003 • Beverly Hills, California

December 1, 2003 • New York City, New York

January 6, 2004 • Orlando, Florida

March 9-10, 2004 • Baltimore, Maryland

June 24-26, 2004 • Chicago, Illinois

Official Auctioneer of the MidAmerica Coin Expo

August 15-16, 2004 • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

All prices listed include the 15% buyer's fee

THE *Classics* SALE

featuring the Luther A. Breck Collection, the Larry Steve Collection,
and other important properties

JULY 25, 2003 • BALTIMORE MARYLAND

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC

THE *Classics* SALE

JULY 25, 2003 • BALTIMORE

FEATURING

The Luther A. Breck Collection

The Larry Steve Collection of Flying Eagle and Indian Cents

and other important properties

1793 WREATH CENT

Choice EF-45. Sheldon-11a

Offered publicly for the first time since 1933

LOT 107

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC RARITIES, LLC

Box 1804 • Wolfeboro, NH 03894 • Toll-Free: 866-811-1804 • Fax: 603-569-3875

www.anrcoins.com • email: auctions@anrcoins.com

Color Plate 2

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Color Plate 6

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578 – 1864 Proof Set, Cent through Silver Dollar

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Color Plate 7

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Color Plate 11

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Color Plate 12

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THE SESSION

FRIDAY JULY 25

1:00 pm Sharp

AUCTION LOCATION

The Harbor West Room • Pier 5 Hotel
711 Eastern Avenue • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
(410) 539-2000

MAIL BID & INTERNET SALE

THURSDAY AUGUST 7

9:00 pm EST Sharp

California Small Denomination Gold: Lots 2001-2126

LOT VIEWING

WEDNESDAY JULY 23

9:00 am to 8:00 pm

THURSDAY JULY 24

8:00 am to 7:00 pm

FRIDAY JULY 25

8:00 am to 6:00 pm

LOT PICK-UP

SATURDAY JULY 26

9:00 am — 11:30 am

LOT VIEWING/LOT PICK-UP LOCATION

The Harbor East Room • Pier 5 Hotel
711 Eastern Avenue • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
(410) 539-2000

To insure we receive your bids:

Please have mail and fax bids to us by:

NOON, Eastern Time
Thursday, July 24, 2003

There will be pre-sale and live bidding available on the internet at www. anrcoins.com. Pre-registration for live internet bidding is required by July 23, 2003

Prices Realized

Prices realized will be posted on the internet soon after the sale. See www.anrcoins.com

A printed list of prices realized will be sent to all subscribers approximately 30 days after the sale.

For prices realized by phone: Call 603-569-0823. Limit 10 lots per caller

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THE PEOPLE *of American Numismatic Rarities*

Executive Director: Christine Karstedt

Director of Administration and Personnel: John S. Babalis

AUCTION

Dr. Richard A. Bagg, *Consignments*
John Pack, *Consignments*
Frank Van Valen, *Senior Numismatist*
John J. Kraljevich, *Numismatic Research*
Andrew W. Pollock, III, *Numismatic Consultant*
Beth O. Piper, *Numismatist*

AUCTIONEERS

John S. Babalis
Christine Karstedt
Frank Van Valen

FINANCIAL

Laurel A. Morrill

SALES

Melissa Karstedt

ADMINISTRATION

John S. Babalis, *Operations Manager*
Cynthia LaCarbonara, *Auction Coordinator*
Jenna V. King
Mary Tocci
Jeremy Wiggin

MARKETING & PUBLICITY

Christine Karstedt

GRAPHICS

Jennifer Meers
Jenna V. King

PHOTOGRAPHY

Douglas Plasencia

Christine Karstedt serves as our Executive Director and handles our Marketing and Publicity. A fixture at numismatic conventions and auctions for over a decade, Chris has built a vast network of industry contacts during her extensive career. Chris' unique ability to attract worldwide attention to the sale of numismatic material placed her at the epicenter of the marketing of the $100 million treasure of the *S.S. Central America*. Chris has worked with numismatic trade publications as well as the mainstream press, appearing on television during her involvement in the sale of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* treasure, the world record sale of the Walter Childs 1804 dollar, and the Childs Collection itself. In addition, she structured the publicity for the sales of the Eliasberg Collection, the Bass Collection, the Norweb Collection of Canadian coins, and countless other sales over her career. Her tireless effort will help consignors receive the highest possible price for their coins.

John Babalis is our Director of Administration and Personnel and also serves as a professional auctioneer. John has spent his career as an insurance executive and administrator, including a long and heralded stay at Bowers and Merena Galleries. He is now in charge of insurance arrangements for American Numismatic Rarities. Insurance coverage is perhaps the most significant aspect of an auction firm, as the security of your coins is of paramount importance. Our coverage through Lloyd's of London and elsewhere, meticulous on-site auction arrangements, and supervision of our day-to-day operations are just a few of John's responsibilities. As a licensed auctioneer, he has sold some of the finest numismatic properties ever to cross the auction block.

Dr. Richard A. Bagg, Director of Auction Consignments, is a nationally known rare coin expert and scholar with over a quarter century of experience. In the course of his celebrated career, Rick has processed several hundred million dollars worth of rare coins at auction for thousands of collectors, institutions, executors, dealers, and investors. Rick shows an impressive degree of expertise and consummate knowledge of numismatics with few parallels. Highlights of his career include the showcasing of the Garrett Collection, sold by the order of the Johns Hopkins University, the famous Eliasberg and Norweb collections, and many other important properties. As a numismatic scholar, Rick provides information to standard reference sources including *A Guide Book of United States Coins,* where he has been a contributor for over 20 years. He also conducted substantive research for the *Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins*. Rick has written numerous articles and supplied research that has appeared in *The Numismatist* and other select publications on such diverse topics as U.S. gold coins, coin investing, collecting numismatic literature, 1792 patterns, and Ephram Brasher. He also has been acknowledged for his fine contributions to many books and auction catalogues and edited a book entitled *Grading Coins*.

John M. Pack, our Associate Director of Auction Consignments, has been involved in numismatics for over 20 years. John has worked with over 1,000 successful auction consignors in guiding more than $150 million worth of numismatic material through the auction process. John's enthusiasm for all aspects of numismatics, and his sincere approach, guarantees that every consignment will be presented to its finest advantage so as to provide the highest possible prices realized. In addition to working with auction consignors, John catalogues currency for the firm. His cataloguing talents were widely recognized for several record setting presentations of U.S. paper money highlighted by the collections of Harry W. Bass, Jr. and Wayne S. Rich. In addition, he was selected to compose the currency chapter of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge

Frank Van Valen, our Senior Numismatist, is one of America's best known numismatic personalities. Widely praised for over two decades for his numismatic cataloguing, Frank's byline has appeared in dozens of the most important catalogues ever written including the Norweb Collection sale and specialized collections, like the Texas Collection of California Fractional Gold and the historic coin collection of Commodore Matthew C. Perry. Frank has contributed to the last 14 editions of the *Guide Book of United States Coins* and his writing talents have earned the recognition of the Numismatic Literary Guild. Frank has an expert understanding of the intricacies of all American coinage in addition to many other numismatic fields. Frank often travels to meet our consignors, who find his visits instructive and convivial.

John Kraljevich Jr., serves as our Director of Numismatic Research. A numismatic prodigy since pre-adolescence, John's insightful and historical contributions to our catalogues add value and interest to numismatic material in our sale. An expert on early American coinage, Numismatic Americana, and the technical aspects of minting technology, John has taught seminars hosted by the American Numismatic Association, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and is a columnist in the ANA magazine, *The Numismatist*. The Numismatic Literary Guild recognized John's cataloguing of the Lucien LaRiviere Collection, the first $1 million collection of American medals ever sold at auction, with its highest cataloging award for tokens and medals. A frequent consultant to museums and institutions, John catalogues many of our important offerings and enjoys working directly with our consignors.

Beth Piper began her career in numismatics at Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc., and worked 18 years with that firm and its successors. In that time, she earned the distinction of having spent more continuous years working under the direction of Q. David Bowers than any other individual. Beth has participated in nearly every position required at a leading numismatic auction firm, and her responsibilities encompassed receptionist to coin grading to direct sales, as well as numismatic research and cataloguing of auction lots. One of her primary jobs is processing and proofreading auction lots and the final compilation of data files for catalogues. Her work with great numismatic auction sales is extensive and includes landmark offerings such as the collections of the Norweb family, Louis Eliasberg, Sr., Harry W. Bass, Jr., and Walter H. Childs, among over 100 other sales.

Cynthia LaCarbonara coordinates all aspects of our live auction sales. From working with consignor reserves, verification of opening values, and lot assignments, to reconciliation and finalization of all bidding and purchase records, Cynthia is an integral part of the system of checks and balances that make every auction sale a smoothly functioning success. For 16 years Cynthia worked both behind the scenes and at the podium at the live auction sales conducted by Bowers and Merena. During that time, she led the auction teams that sold such great collections as those of Louis Eliasberg, Sr., Walter Childs, and Harry W. Bass, Jr., a few highlights among *dozens of* important auction sales. A prominent figure at auction sales for years, Cynthia is well recognized by dealers and collectors alike. Most importantly, she is very familiar with all aspects of the auction process and she knows well what it takes to hold a successful sale.

Laurel Morrill manages our accounting department, handling all receivable and payable accounts for our auctions, direct sales, and subscriptions. She will also execute advances for auction consignors, and pay auction settlements after our sales. It is her organized and efficient approach that guarantees each transfer of funds is correct and done promptly. The transfer of the funds, either for a purchase, a sale, an auction settlement or other reason, is after all, the *bottom line.* Laurel has significant experience with the unique accounting requirements of a great numismatic auction firm. For over 16 years, she was an integral part of the accounting department of Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc., and its successors, under the direction of Q. David Bowers, the most respected name in numismatics. While there, she participated in the accounting duties that promptly paid thousands of auction consignors hundreds of millions of dollars in settlement funds—experience that makes her uniquely qualified to carry out the same duties for American Numismatic Rarities.

Doug Plasencia manages our photography department and personally takes all of the coin photographs that appear in our auction catalogues, on our website, and in our other publications. He has been a professional numismatic photographer for many years, perfecting his skills with Bowers and Merena Galleries. In his career, he has photographed many of the most important numismatic collections ever formed and sold, including those of Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., Harry W. Bass, Jr., and Walter H. Childs, among others. To his further credit, he was selected by the California Gold Marketing Group to do photography of the gold ingots recovered from the *S.S. Central America,* he photographed the Jay Roe Collection of California fractional gold coins to illustrate the most recent edition of the Breen-Gillio reference, and he was selected to photograph the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation.

Jennifer Meers leads our graphic arts department. In her 13 years with Bowers and Merena Galleries, Jennifer developed an eye for professional catalogue design that is unparalleled in numismatics. She is responsible for all auction catalogue layout. In her career, she has put together many award-winning auction catalogues, books, and other publications. Among her most notable achievements are the auction catalogues for such famous collections as those of Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., Armand Champa, Harry W. Bass, Jr., and Walter H. Childs among over 100 others, many of which earned Catalogue of the Year awards from the Numismatic Literary Guild. The dozens of books produced under her direction include several titles by Q. David Bowers, including the landmark works, *A California Gold Rush History featuring the treasure from the S.S. Central America,* and the *Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge.* She is also credited with notable books such as *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of Early United States Cents 1793-1814,* and the most recent edition of the Breen-Gillio reference, *California Pioneer Fractional Gold.* Academically trained in English, she carefully proofreads all of our publications and she contributes to our publicity campaigns in developing many of our finest advertisements.

Mary Tocci directs our shipping and receiving department, handling nearly every package and item of mail that enters or leaves our offices. This extremely important position is vital to the security of all of our incoming and outgoing packages, and her qualifications are unparalleled. She began a career with Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc. in April 1983. Aside from one brief interlude, she worked for Q. David Bowers for 19 years in total, beginning very shortly after the establishment of his firm in Wolfeboro and continuing until her recent joining of American Numismatic Rarities. Mary also has an excellent rapport with many collectors, having spent years working with clients in subscription maintenance and publication sales. She will also continue in this capacity at American Numismatic Rarities.

Melissa Karstedt works with clients in our direct sales department, with the active support of our team of well-respected numismatists. She maintains our coin inventory and supervises our Monthly Acquisition Program, which assists clients with building fine collections by way of budgeted monthly coin purchases. Each coin is specifically selected by our numismatists to fit the collector's interests and preferences. Melissa began working in numismatics at Bowers and Merena Galleries, working in the Direct Sales department where she learned the ropes, so to speak, of working with numismatic clients. She is also a valued member of our on-site auction team. She brings great enthusiasm to American Numismatic Rarities, and looks forward to every call.

Jenna V. King is the friendly voice you hear when you call American Numismatic Rarities. She comes to us with almost two years of experience working in the coin field, having begun her career at Bowers and Merena Galleries where she assisted in photography and graphics, and worked with the numismatic staff in catalogue production. As an accomplished photographer, Jenna will also lend her talents to the graphics and photography departments at American Numismatic Rarities.

Jeremy Wiggin wears many hats at American Numismatic Rarities from shipping and receiving to supervision and maintenance of our company website. He has a good understanding of the inner workings of a numismatic company, as he spent nearly three years at Bowers and Merena Galleries. During that time he was responsible for inventory control and shipping of thousands of auction catalogues, books, and other publications, and he will continue with American Numismatic Rarities in that regard.

THE TERMS OF SALE

1 This sale is by public auction conducted by licensed auctioneer(s). The bids will be for specific lots which will be opened for bidding in numerical order. **In the event that bids for the same amount are received for the same lot, the winning bid will be the earliest received.** The decision of the Auctioneer as to identity of the winning bidder shall be final. Any person submitting bids on behalf of a corporation or any other entity agrees to be personally liable for payment of the purchase price and any related charges as well as responsible for the performance of all buyer obligations under these terms of sale. No "buy" or unlimited bids will be accepted. No bids will be accepted from minors.

2 American Numismatic Rarities, LLC, (subsequently referred to as ANR in the Terms of Sale)reserves the right to postpone or cancel the auction without notice in its sole discretion. Any lot may be withdrawn by ANR without notice prior to it being opened for bidding. Neither ANR nor the consignor shall be liable for any costs or damages arising from either the withdrawal of material at the auction or the delay or cancellation of the auction.

3 The purchase price shall be sum of the winning bid and a buyer's premium of 15% of the amount of the winning bid. The purchase price shall be paid in full prior to delivery of the lot absent other arrangements between the successful bidder and ANR. The decision to extend a line of credit and the decision to withdraw a previously authorized line of credit shall be within the sole discretion of ANR. ANR reserves the right to deny participation in the auction if, in ANR's sole discretion, the bidder's prior business dealings with ANR have been unsatisfactory.

4 Payment shall be by cash in United States funds or checks drawn onUnited States banks. The purchase price shall be paid upon delivery of the lot or receipt of our invoice for the lot, whichever occurs first. All associated costs for the delivery of the lot such as handling, shipping, insurance, and related charges will be added to the purchase price for lots not picked up after the auction by the winning bidder. On any account not paid within the prescribed terms of sale, ANR reserves the right to extend credit and to impose periodic finance charges at the rate of 1-1/2% per month (18% per annum) on the unpaid balance. By bidding in the sale, the bidder agrees to permit ANR to file any financing statement permitted under the Uniform Commercial Code without debtor's signature and to offset any accounts due, whether now or in the future, against funds or collateral in their possession. The buyer agrees not to sell, pledge, or hypothecate the lots purchased until paid in full. If the account is referred to an attorney for collection, the buyer agrees to pay all costs, including attorneys' fees, with interest accruing on the balance, until fully paid, at the specified rate.

5 Bidders shall be responsible for all taxes due as a result of their purchases.

6 Title does not pass from the consignor to the successful bidder until the purchase price for the lot has been paid in full. The risk of loss is on the buyer once the lot is either in transit to the successful bidder or in their possession.

7 ANR reserves the right to establish the opening bid for any lot, to establish bidding increments, and to refuse any bid. ANR reserves the right to place bids on behalf of the consignor up to the amount of a reserve price established by the consignor. ANR will not accept a reserve price from a consignor above the high estimated value shown in the catalog for the auction and any exceptions to this rule will be announced at the auction prior to the opening of bidding on the material. ANR shall make reasonable efforts to properly enter and execute bids received by mail or by other means. However, ANR shall not be liable for any errors for incorrectly entered or incorrectly executed bids.

8 Bidders are responsible for their bids including any errors they may make in placing bids. All bids shall be in even dollar amounts and any bids not in whole dollar amounts will be rounded to the next highest dollar. All bid sheets must be signed, and ANR reserves the right to not accept unsigned bid sheets.

9 All items offered in this auction catalog are guaranteed to be genuine. **Except for questions of authenticity, no lots shall be returned nor shall ANR accept any returned lots from any floor bidder or any bidder who examined the lots prior to the sale.** Mail, FAX and Internet bidders may make return requests within three days of the receipt of the lot. Coins must be returned to ANR's offices in Wolfeboro, N.H. within 30 days from the date of the auction. Any coin which has been physically altered or which has been removed from its container or holder shall not be returnable nor accepted by ANR.

10 Bidders by accepting these terms of sale acknowledge that the grading of coins is a subjective process for describing the relative ranking of coins as to their condition. Consequently, the language used to describe any coin in this catalog, including but not limited to the grading of such coin, are statements of subjective opinion by the ANR staff. **No warranty, whether expressed or implied, including the warranty of merchantability, is made with respect to any coin contained in this catalog.** In the event of a typographical error or other error, ANR reserves the right to withdraw any item from the auction with or without notice, to correct the error by verbal announcement before the lot is opened for bidding or, if the error is discovered after the auction, to refund the successful bidder's funds without further obligation. The maximum obligation of ANR to any bidder shall be the purchase price for any lot in dispute or for which a refund or adjustment is made for any reason.

11 ANR acts as an auctioneer to sell coins for the various consignors. Therefore, no claims of any kind can be considered by ANR after settlements, which occur 45 days after the auction, have been made with the consignors. Any dispute after the settlement date except for reasons of authenticity, is to be resolved strictly by discussions between the successful bidder and consignor.

12 Cash advances may have been made to some consignors in anticipation of auction proceeds. ANR may consign items to this auction and may participate as a bidder. ANR or the consignor may bid for their own account at the auction and may have information not otherwise available to the bidders regarding reserves, bid values, and other material facts relating to the lots opened for bidding at the auction. When a lot is sold to the book, it may be sold, passed over, withdrawn from the auction, returned to the owner or bought by ANR. Any consignor may bid on any lot, including lots containing coins consigned by the consignor.

13 By placing a bid in this sale, a bidder agrees that this transaction shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Hampshire and that neither New Hampshire's or any other state's choice of laws and/or conflict of laws shall be applied. Any dispute between ANR and bidders at the auction (except for non-payment) shall be settled exclusively by binding arbitration under the rules then in effect of the Professional Numismatists Guild, Inc. conducted at Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. In the event of non-payment, ANR and a successful bidder agree that any judicial action shall be heard and determined only by the courts of the State of New Hampshire and the successful bidder hereby consents and submits to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of New Hampshire.

14 In the event of litigation, the party against whom a final judgment is rendered shall pay the prevailing parties' legal costs, including attorneys fees and witness fees, and all other costs incurred by it during the course of such litigation.

15 **These Terms of Sale are intended to be part of all lot descriptions contained in this catalogue.** Bidding in this auction sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of the foregoing Terms of Sale.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS

TO INSURE WE RECEIVE YOUR BIDS, please have mail and fax bids to us by **NOON, Eastern Time Thursday, July 24, 2003**

- There will be pre-sale and live bidding available on the internet at www. anrcoins.com.
- Pre-registration to bid during the live auction required by July 23, 2003

PHONE DESCRIPTIONS: Any request for phone descriptions should be made by Wednesday, July 16.

PRICES REALIZED will be published approximately 30 days after the auction. Prices realized will be posted on the Internet soon after the sale at www.anrcoins.com

NEW BIDDERS: If you are a new bidder, be sure to send your credit information: Attn: Laurel Morrill, at least 10 days before the auction. There is very little time, if any, to review this information during the auction. All bidders not know to us will be required to submit a 25% deposit before bidding in the sale.

FLOOR BIDDER REGISTRATION will begin 30 minutes before the sale at the entrance to the auction room.

Please note: Transparent holders in which the auction lots are stored are to facilitate viewing and inspection of the lots and ARE NOT intended for long-term storage.

Suggestions for Mail Bidders

Bidding in our auctions can be an interesting, enjoyable, and numismatically rewarding experience. Even if you are an experienced bidder, you may find that some of the following comments will increase your success. In the event that you wish to ask further questions, phone Cynthia LaCarbonara.

Mail your bid sheet as early as possible. This is particularly important if you are a new bidder, for it takes us time to check your references. A bid sheet mailed a few days before the sale might not reach us until a week later—at which time the coins will have been sold to others!

As the sale date draws near, fax us your bids anytime 24 hours a day [our fax number is (603) 569-3875]. Or, telephone your bids to our Auction Department. Please follow up your phone and fax bids with written confirmation.

We've found it best to use a work sheet to compile bids. In this way you can check back and forth throughout the catalogue, make changes and revisions, and so on. Then when you've decided on your final bids, enter them on the bid sheet. Try your best to keep the bid sheet neat and clearly understandable, listing the lots in order. Check your bid sheet carefully. You will be responsible for any bids on wrong lots for the wrong amounts. Please be careful.

Don't bid more than you want to pay! Review your financial circumstances carefully before bidding. There is always the possibility that you may be awarded all of the lots you bid on. If you are awarded lots, you are legally bound to pay for them immediately.

Please keep current prices levels in mind when bidding. While high and low prices sometimes occur, most items sell within market ranges. If a popular coin sells for $500 on the retail market, chances are not good that a bid of, say, less than $400 will win it. On the other hand, chances are excellent that a bid in the $500-$600 range will be competitive. There is no harm in bargain hunting, but as your time is valuable (and so is ours), it is most productive if you keep current values in mind while bidding. The higher you bid, the greater your chances are for success. It has been our experience that many people who bid strongly, or check the options to increase bids by an optional 10% to 30% actually purchase at least some lots below their maximum authorization once the sale takes place.

Ink is best for writing bids. Pencil tends to blur. If bid changes are necessary, do not write over figures. Instead, cross them out completely and re-enter the bids. Put your telephone number on the bid sheet. This way we can call you if there is a question about a bid.

Lots may be inspected by mail prior to the auction (except for large or bulk lots, or other multiple-coin lots). Please write or call for further information. Mail inspection requests must be received sufficiently early to permit return to us in time for general lot viewing prior to the sale. The person requesting mail inspection agrees to pay postage and insurance both ways and to insure and be responsible for the pieces in his or her possession.

Special Bidding Options

Total Expenditure

If you wish to limit your total expenditure, please fill in the maximum amount you wish to spend on the TOTAL EXPENDITURE line on your bid sheet. You can then submit bids for amounts up to eight times the amount of the maximum expenditure. This is a personal service and an ANR customer representative will personally attend to your bid sheet by bidding from the auction floor, buying lots for your account until your authorized expenditure is reached. While we will do our best in your behalf, due to the speed of the auction sale and the sometimes crowded conditions, we cannot be responsible for failure to execute such a bid properly. Due to the bookkeeping involved, this service is offered only to bidders with maximum expenditures of $1,000 or more. TOTAL EXPENDITURE and SINGLE LOT GROUP bidding can be combined.

Single Lot Group

Up to five lots may be grouped with brackets for a SINGLE LOT GROUP purchase, if you wish to purchase only one example of a coin of which several examples appear in the sale. Such lots should be bracketed on your bid sheet. While we will do our best on your behalf, due to the speed of the auction sale and the sometimes crowded conditions, we cannot be responsible for failure to execute such a bid properly.

Optional Percentage Increase

We invite you to take advantage of the optional 10% to 30% increase to help your chance of being a successful bidder. Check the appropriate place on your bid sheet.

Guide to
ONLINE BIDDING

Visit our website at www.anrcoins.com to register and bid in the Classics Sale. Once you have a user name and password, you can browse lots from the sale, view photographs of the coins, and place bids. We also offer the option of live online bidding during the auction. However, you must pre-register by noon, July 23, 2003 to take advantage of this service.

OUR CONSIGNOR

Luther Adams Breck

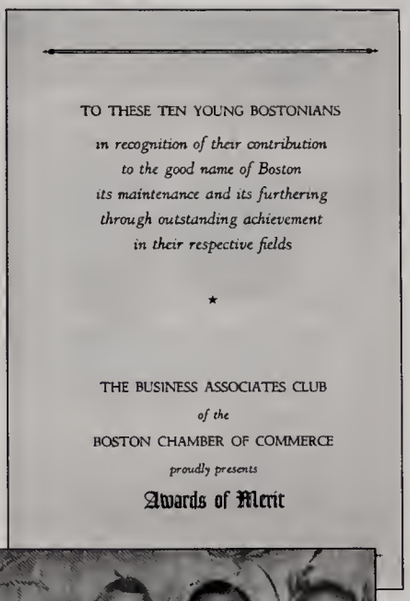
Luther Breck in his 80s.

Luther Breck was descended from the Adams family (best known for producing two early US presidents). He was born in 1911 in London, England, but educated mostly in this country, at The Country Day School (now The Rivers School in Weston, MA) and Harvard College, Class of 1934. While at Harvard he was a member of the Varsity Squash team, which won the national championship title in Baltimore in 1933.

Mr. Breck was chairman of Breck's of Boston. The family business, founded in 1818 by Joseph Breck and continued by five father-to-son generations, consisted of seeds, Holland bulbs, garden supplies and, later, gifts and sundries. Under Luther Breck's guidance, the company evolved from a Boston-based retail concern aimed at the farmers of Daniel Webster's time to a nationally-known catalog mail-order enterprise directed to the modern homemaker. The active customer list had over 2.5 million names.

Luther (Bo) Breck married Clara (Bunny) Taft in 1937; they lived at first on T Wharf in Boston. Bunny and Bo bought their first house in Wellesley Massachusetts in 1940 and continued to live there (moving in 1952 and 1954 to larger homes in Wellesley Hills) until Bunny's death in 1974. Daughters Margo and Sally were born in 1941 and 1944. Mrs. Breck was a long-time member of the Wellesley School Committee and served tirelessly on other community boards and charitable organizations.

Mr. Breck was voted one of the ten outstanding young men of greater Boston by the Boston Chamber of Commerce in 1950, along with Leonard Bernstein and Jack Kennedy. He was a founding member of the Young Presidents Organization. His commercial affiliations include trustee of the American Seed Trade Association and governor of The Direct Mail Association of America. He was for a time president of the New England Mail Order Association. Luther was a former governor of the Dedham Country and Polo Club, and was a member of the Wellesley Country Club, the Bald Peak (NH) Colony Club, and The Harvard Club of Boston.



TO THESE TEN YOUNG BOSTONIANS

in recognition of their contribution
to the good name of Boston
its maintenance and its furthering
through outstanding achievement
in their respective fields

★

THE BUSINESS ASSOCIATES CLUB
of the
BOSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
proudly presents
Awards of Merit

During the Jubilee Celebration held in Boston in May of 1950, Bo Breck (then 38 years old) was honored as one of the city's ten outstanding business and professional men (along with Jack Kennedy and Leonard Bernstein). An award was presented to him in recognition of his contribution to his native city's good name. The presentation was made to the ten prominent men through the Business Associates Club of the Boston Chamber of Commerce at a dinner held at the Copley Plaza Hotel. From left to right: Richard S. Morse, Dr. Francis D. Moore, James L. Madden, John F. Kennedy, Edward B. Hanify, John L. Gillis, Luther A. Breck, William E. Barbour. Not available for the picture were two of the more famous young men, Leonard Bernstein and Al Capp.

As the father of two daughters, Mr. Breck indulged his love of travel and believed strongly in providing his girls, and eventually their families, with new experiences. Throughout his life he was a constant world traveler, for both business and pleasure. He had a special affection for humorous publicity stunts, such as the time he imported a Chinese junk to sail on the Charles River for the purpose of publicizing his company; sadly, its timbers had dried out in transit, and the colorful craft sank to the river bottom!

He had a lifetime interest in duplicate bridge, squash, bowling, tennis, golf, and the stock market. He was an avid collector for 30 years of postage stamps, then of rare American coins, which we celebrate with this auction.

With the birth of their first grandchild in 1968, Bo and Bunny acquired a home on Lake Winnipesaukee for summer vacations. In his later years he lived there with his second wife Anne Lynah Breck. He died peacefully in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire in March 2003 on his 91st birthday.

A consummate storyteller who loved to entertain, he will be remembered by all who knew him for his quick wit and unique sense of humor which was present to the very end.

Above: The Breck family sitting in a model "merry Oldsmobile c.1901" that Luther had made to publicize Breck's Country Store, one of his many ventures. Right: The Brecks, circa 1960, featuring Bo and Bunny with their daughters Margo and Sally, and the family dog, Jinx. Such a picture was taken every year and featured in the Breck's catalogue.

A Polar Expedition

Luther Breck was a lifetime traveler, and a member of an historic expedition. On Nov. 8, 1968 the first commercial flight to travel around the world crossing both the North and South Poles departed from Boston, fulfilling one of the dreams of the late Admiral Byrd, as well as proving the feasibility of air travel via the earth's poles.

Sixty-seven Americans made this historic 26-day flight to commemorate Byrd's first Antarctic flight in 1929. The plane, "Polar Byrd," was a Convair 990 captained by a former "Air Force One" pilot. The travelers were feted by dignitaries in many places on six continents and at both poles (and all for the price of $10,000!)

The plaque presented to Bo after the trip read as follows:

"Luther Adams Breck is hereby elected as a founding trustee of the Admiral Richard E. Byrd Polar Center, in appreciation of his participation and support in the founding of the AREBP Center at Boston Mass."

An excerpt from *Antarctic* magazine, Dec. 1968:

All members of the group wore thermal boots and full Antarctic clothing which was beautifully made, mostly from synthetic materials. However, as it was warm summer weather for most of the five hours spent on the ice, the heat generated by such perfection became an embarrassment even to the heat-loving Americans...The parties were escorted around McMurdo base area...seals were basking close in on the Bay ice, which of course had the cameras clicking. The day was perfect for photography...A breeze came up suddenly, causing a drastic body temperature drop. Immediately everyone was glad of their warm clothing, and recognized the dramatic weather changes that can so quickly occur here.

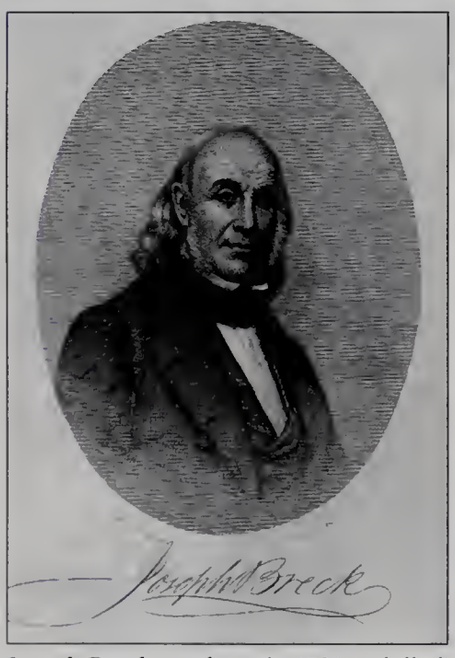
In His Own Words:

THE STORY OF BRECK'S OF BOSTON

Luther Breck in the late 1950s, the heyday of his business career.

About two weeks before his death in March 2003, I delivered to my grandfather in the chair where he sat convalescing an express package containing the last coin he bought for his collection. He had recently given me a thoughtful entreaty to the joys of collecting, but seeing his face light up toward the end of his life at the arrival of a coin drove the point home.

Perhaps coins represented another way to keep score in the world of commerce for a man so passionate about business. His adventures in business form a cornerstone of family lore, to the extent that on more than one occasion family members were inspired to make audio tapes of the stories. People and events are also described in Boston news sources and other records, but his own words, taped in 1994, are surely the most colorful way to tell the tale of Breck's of Boston and related enterprises. (By Karen Euler, Mr. Breck's eldest grandchild)



Joseph Breck was born in 1794 and died in 1873. An author, statesman, and editor, he is best known as the founder of Joseph Breck & Sons (Boston, 1818) and as president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society (1859-1862). He also wrote *The Flower Garden*, a book on flower cultivation and shrubbery and was one of the founding members of the American Seed Trade Association. He experimented with different forms of catalogues and utilized marketing techniques such as including essays on gardening and targeting specific markets.

Joseph Breck founded the family company in 1818 to sell mainly farm implements. He was also an early president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Joseph Breck & Sons Corp. became in my day Breck's of Boston, which I thought was a friendlier name than "and sons."

I joined my father (who was the fourth generation owner) right after Harvard College in 1935. I was a young gopher, doing a little of everything including warehouse work at Lewis Wharf off Atlantic Avenue. My father and I were both living on T Wharf and I would sometimes go to the warehouse and 'rest my head' on a stack of burlap bags when no one was looking—the supervisor couldn't do anything about it, but it was a shameful exhibition on my part.

I remember when the company was 150 years old, we put on quite a loud advertising barrage. Breck's was one of a handful of old businesses such as Shreve, Crump & Lowe; S.S. Pierce, and a very few others, still in the same family, and particularly with direct succession from father to son for five consecutive generations. It's a pretty rare accomplishment in American business, since most companies that prospered ended up in public hands with the family's control dissipated.

Going back to my early days, Breck's was a fairly complicated business in that we had a large wholesale division, which had up to 21 salesmen on the road, serving hardware shops, garden stores, florists and market gardeners all over New England. We had a retail business, which started with one store in Faneuil Hall, and ended up with branch stores all over New England, New York, and New Jersey. We had 17 branches, none of which was terribly profitable, though people thought they were. In retrospect it was a lot of wasted time and energy and capital, with a lot of dishonesty in the handling of the money.

The wholesale division was alright, but it involved huge inventories and small margins. We were distributors of agricultural and garden goods and housewares—Revere, Corning and Pyrex ware— which had no particular connection with our original business, but the same men could sell to the same stores, all over New England; they could sell both lines at the same time.

TURNING TO MAIL-ORDER

I had entered Breck's in the mid-1930s; by the early 1950s my father permitted me to run some tiny *House and Garden* ads for a bird feeder. (I was quite excited, and ran each day to see if there were any answers to the ad!) In short, we sold enough bird feeders that we continued and developed a small mail-order business. The business was so small that when the orders came in they were written up by hand, by the telephone operator at her switchboard. Since the mail-order business involved cash with order—no 800 numbers, no credit cards—what we had was money orders, cheques and occasional cash, even occasionally some stamps!—in other words, remittance with order when the good ladies responded to the catalogs and advertisements.

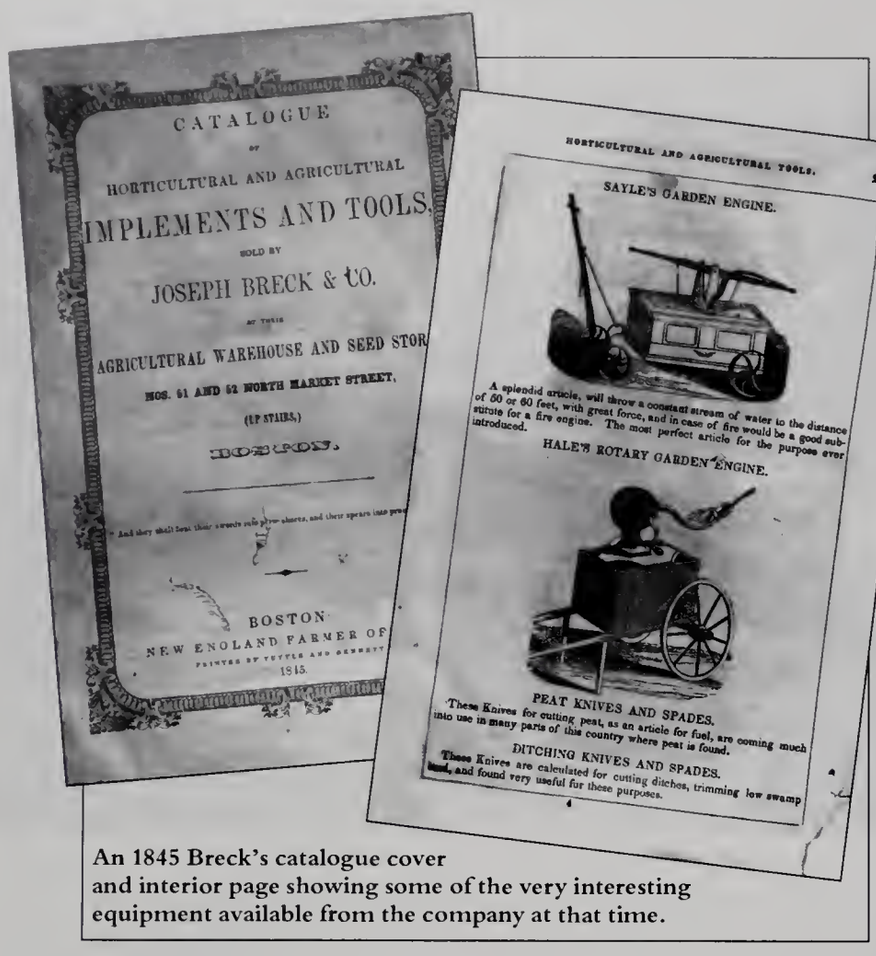
Breck's original headquarters at 51 No. Market St. in Faneuil Square (facing Dock Square) is now the site of the Bostonian Hotel. This photo (c. 1900, with Faneuil Hall on the left, Quincy market on the right) shows the horse-drawn pedlars' wagons loading up with produce for street-hawking and transport to retail outlets. Also pictured are a dime and half eagle from the Breck Collection. Perhaps coins similar to these were jingling in the pockets of the merchants in Quincy market.

Eventually one day I called a small meeting at my home in Wellesley, and put the kibosh on everything except mail-order. Out went the private estate trade, the florists, the wholesale, the market gardeners, the manufacturing of our own brand of seeds, sprays, fertilizers. Out went everything except mail-order to the American consumer (or housewife, if you prefer).

Suddenly a wonderful thing happened. We had been indebted to the four major banks in Boston—we were the oldest account at State Street Bank (they had a framed document to that effect on the wall of their directors' room)—and to the Small Business Administration of the federal government. In short, we were in hock up to our eyeballs, not bankrupt, but simply owing everybody money in an orderly way, a constant worry to my father and subsequently, to me. All of a sudden, we owed nothing to any bank, because we had no accounts receivable as we did in the old days, with dealers and florists and market gardeners and even Daniel Webster. Daniel Webster used to trade with us regularly for his agricultural supplies, but it was his custom to pay once a year. He'd come in with a loud flourish and hand in the money for his year's purchases, so he was an "accounts receivable" at the retail level. I mention it only because he was such a famous man, and we had one of his ploughs that we put in our store window to show how respectable we were!

Now in the course of this mail-order growth and development we were virtual pioneers in this industry, which today has become enormous—in the tens of billions of dollars per year of business. We sold both miscellaneous and gift items as well as horticultural ones; all my competitors tried the horticultural but they never could do it. We had mail-order flourishing from tiny ads, little skimpy fliers of bird feeders and paper-white narcissus bulbs. I tried upscale clothing, but I couldn't do it. You can't just decide to add something, even though I hired good people to select the clothing. It isn't whether you know about it, it's whether "The People" trust you in this category of goods. "The People" would trust us on the horticultural because enough of our old image was retained. So we learned that lesson often and early.

As the mail-order business grew, I would hire specialists—such as three Montgomery Ward graduates from Albany, who came in to do nothing but mechanize the warehousing and the order-filling and the mail-opening activi-


CATALOGUE
OF
HORTICULTURAL AND AGRICULTURAL
IMPLEMENTS AND TOOLS,
SOLD BY
JOSEPH BRECK & CO.
AT THEIR
AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE AND SEED STOR
NOS. 51 AND 52 NORTH MARKET STREET,
(UP STAIRS,)
BOSTON.
BOSTON:
NEW ENGLAND FARMER OF
1845.

HORTICULTURAL AND AGRICULTURAL TOOLS. 25

SAYLE'S GARDEN ENGINE.

A splendid article, will throw a constant stream of water to the distance of 50 or 60 feet, with great force, and in case of fire would be a good substitute for a fire engine. The most perfect article for the purpose ever introduced.

HALE'S ROTARY GARDEN ENGINE.

PEAT KNIVES AND SPADES.

These Knives for cutting peat, as an article for fuel, are coming much into use in many parts of this country where peat is found.

DITCHING KNIVES AND SPADES.

These Knives are calculated for cutting ditches, trimming low swamp land, and found very useful for these purposes.

An 1845 Breck's catalogue cover and interior page showing some of the very interesting equipment available from the company at that time.

ties, which can be amazingly specialized. You don't just open the mail and hand it around—everything is systematized. None of us home-grown people knew how to do that, but I did know enough to hire some people who did know. So by grafting their expertise onto our skeleton, we became mail-order professionals. We learned to hire special people for buying, people for promotional activities, advertising, etc.

Unfortunately, while my father encouraged me to start in with this mail-order project, he never did see it finish. I think he could see it coming and growing; I think he was pleased, but I don't think he ever saw the day where there was not a bank debt or a government loan. He died early, at age 57.

On the Bandwagon

Soon I started a little subsidiary company called Bandwagon Manufacturing. The concept here was that we would produce and distribute items suitable for the mail-order trade—our competitors' catalogs! Supposedly, they were buying from Bandwagon, and didn't feel they were enriching Breck's coffers thereby. But that was really a joke, because they all knew that Breck's owned Bandwagon, so I wasn't fooling anybody much.

We had a line of widgets and gadgets (perhaps 20-40 items) and we made money and actually the thing grew big enough that I thought it needed a separate president. So, I ran an ad ("President Wanted") and it was undoubtedly the most successful ad I ever ran—I was deluged with applications from people who wanted to come in off the street and become president of a corporation! It's a foolproof formula. And out of all these answers I winnowed out a fellow and made him president.

Jack Crawford was fairly new, out of Middlebury College, and he (with a few cronies from Middlebury) had gone to Honolulu and set up shop in one of the big hotels to peddle army, navy and airforce surplus items. This was shortly enough after WWII that they were pioneers—a group of college boys, sitting in a suite at the big Honolulu hotel, was a refreshing difference. Their surplus included life rafts, I remember, and aviators' medals, and all kinds of things like that.

I hired Jack Crawford, who obviously was street-smart and very personable, and he ran Bandwagon for many years, until we weren't making quite as much money as we used to. I propositioned him one day that we sell the whole thing to him, and let him run it his way. That was a good decision for him, and a good enough one for us—we got a little money out of it, and we no longer had to worry about what was happening to Bandwagon. Jack, on the other hand, showed an absolutely remarkable genius for running it, once it was his own.

Now the interesting part of this relationship with Bandwagon is that out of it grew my interest in foreign travel. You cannot run a mail-order business without new and different merchandise, and to find it you have to travel. So Jack was selling this stuff at the wholesale level, and I was buying it from him (and directly myself, especially in the case of Holland bulbs) and selling it at the retail level (Breck's). So we had in common the need to find new and different items. Consequently we teamed up and started traveling.

The result is that I have now visited 97 countries, most of them with Jack, and he by now has probably visited even more than that, because he's been at it ever since I quit traveling. He's particularly strong in Eastern Europe; I'm particularly strong in the Islands, and neither of us is very strong

in South America—I don't know why, we just didn't like South America, or we didn't find much merchandise there. Anyway, we traveled high and low, and very nicely: first class, big hotels, everything very plush, and it was a lot of fun.

And these days Jack goes to places that don't yield any product; they just yield travel fun, like when he hires the sherpa guides in Nepal—he isn't going to find any stuff among the yaks there! He just enjoys the mountain climbing with the sherpas.

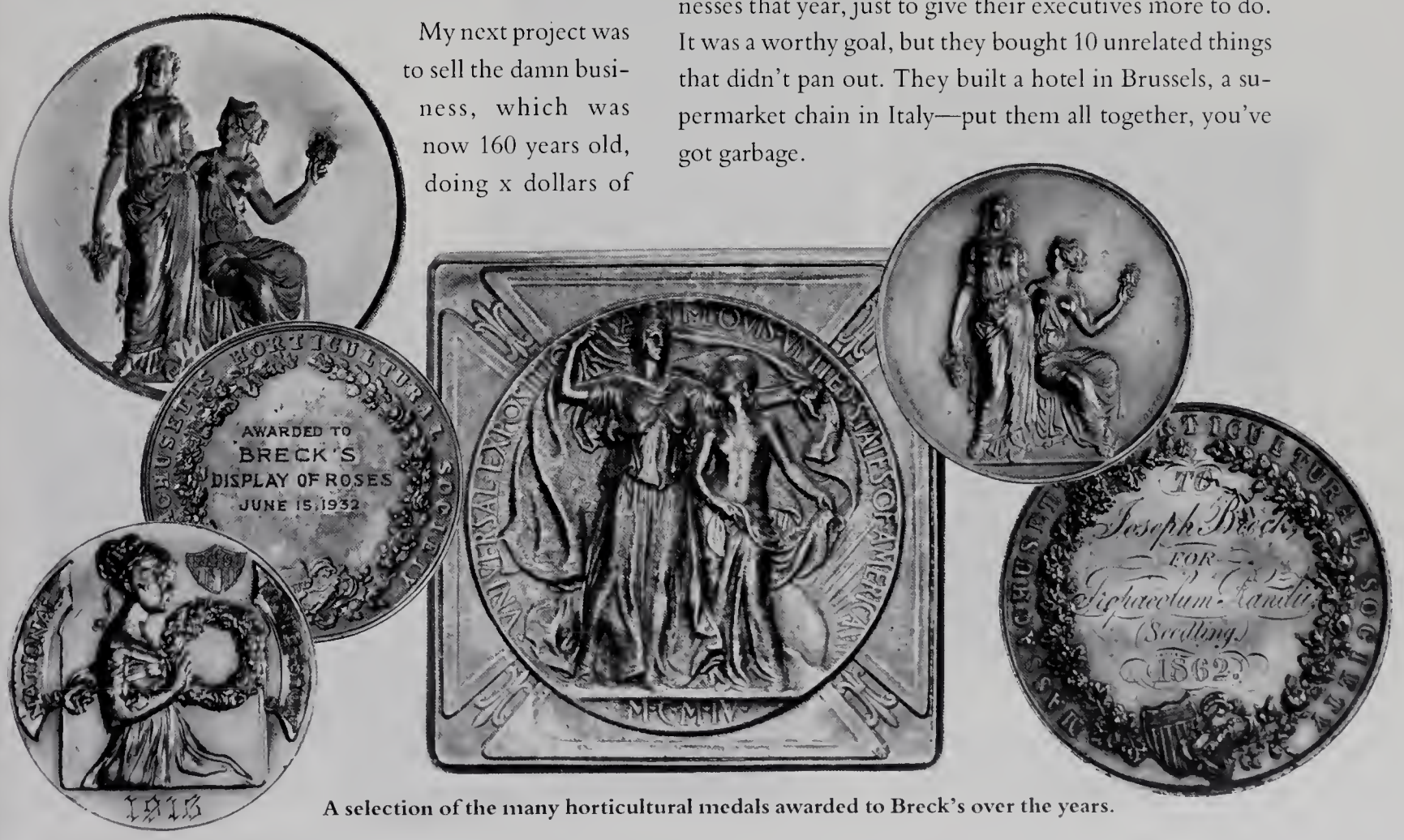
SELLING THE COMPANY

Everyone assumes that being named Breck, and having been born in this succession of Brecks for five generations, that I simply came along and inherited the business and enough stock. The truth of the matter is that I inherited nothing, and no stock.

Eventually, I learned how many shares were out, I knew what the market value was, and I just kept collecting them. We're talking about 400-500 share-holders and 4,000-5,000 shares of stock, but you can only buy from one person at a time, you can't put in an order for it. I tried that, I tried absolutely everything! I finally accumulated, believe it or not, 97-98% of the Breck's stock.

My next project was to sell the damn business, which was now 160 years old, doing x dollars of sales, and making x amount of money. I put on this huge campaign to sell it and finally I sold it to a trading-stamp company — dealers in incentive merchandise for corporations to reward their best salesmen, etc. It was a very poor fit, there was no synergy as hoped. We never combined the computers, we never combined the switchboard, or anything. It was really a joke. Mr. E.F. McDonald, God bless him, never even came to Boston to see what he had bought, for example. We're talking about a big wealthy company in Dayton, that bought 10 businesses that year, just to give their executives more to do. It was a worthy goal, but they bought 10 unrelated things that didn't pan out. They built a hotel in Brussels, a supermarket chain in Italy—put them all together, you've got garbage.

A fishing trip with Jack Crawford in Baja California, one of many such trips the two friends shared.



A selection of the many horticultural medals awarded to Breck's over the years.

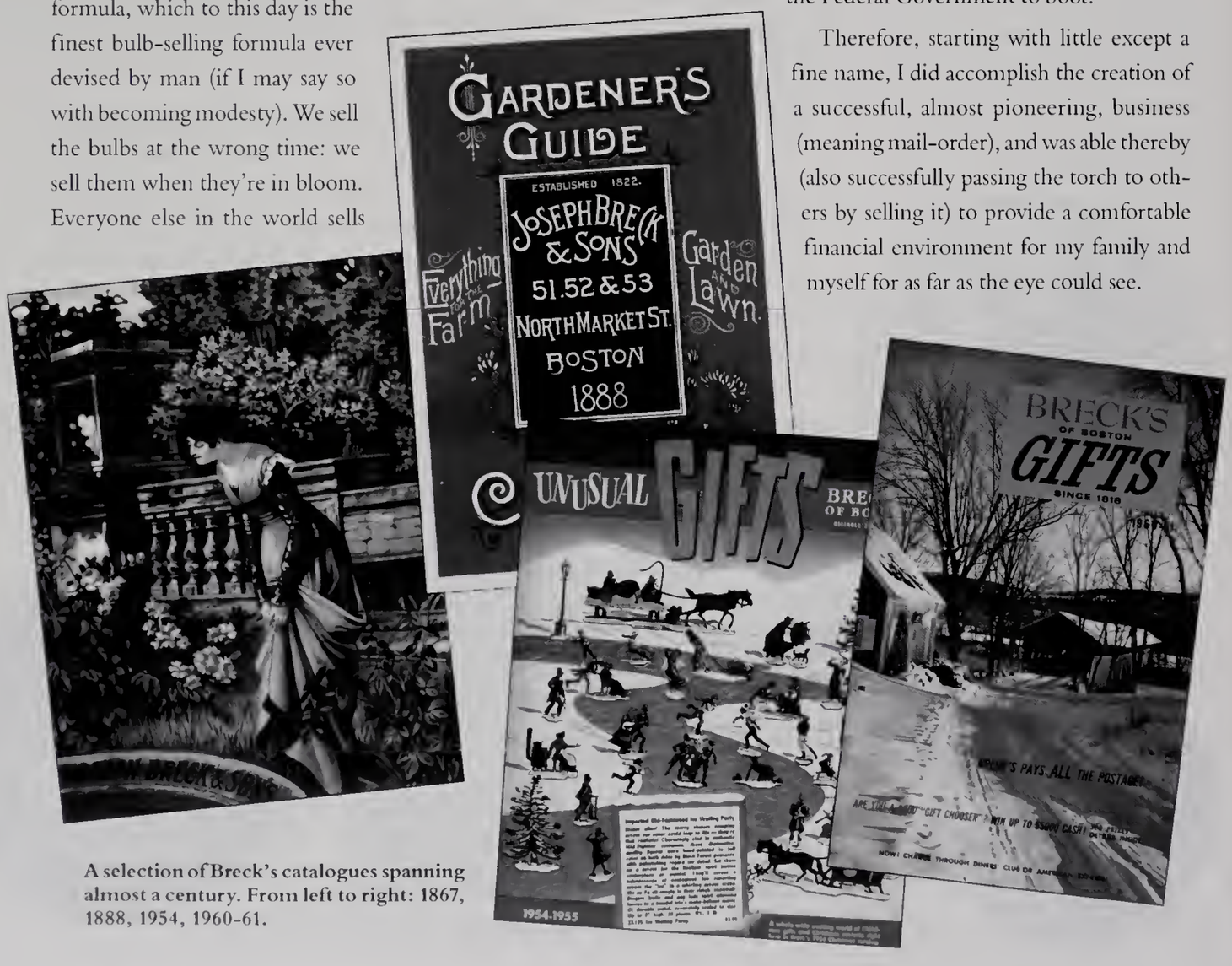
So it was a sad day for those who loved the traditions of Breck's and those who loved Mr. E.F. McDonald, a big benefactor to the Dayton community. It was a horrible fit and a dreadful miscalculation. He asked me to come out and explain what it was he had bought, and I did go out there and speak to their directors' meetings. It was an unbelievable mismatch and it finally ended; I was fired early on, and soon they threw everyone out, including the president. They sent in their personnel manager to run the place for awhile, and then they sent in the private pilot of the president's airplane! They didn't know what they were doing. Finally they had an auction—and there went 175 years of Breck's down the drain.

Breck's Today

All that's left is the Holland bulb business in Peoria, Illinois, owned by my friend Tom Foster who bought it at auction. He bought the name, the mailing list, and my bulb formula, which to this day is the finest bulb-selling formula ever devised by man (if I may say so with becoming modesty). We sell the bulbs at the wrong time: we sell them when they're in bloom. Everyone else in the world sells them in the fall, when they're dormant, when you can pick them up and plant them. We sell them when they are blooming and you can't touch them! It worked a miracle, and they're still doing it 30 years later. With my formula, Tom has been able to sell millions of dollars of bulbs! I had hoped to help him with the business but he gently put me off, saying he'd muddle along. He does a super job with the company.

Breck's has always been a very fine name around Boston, often misjudged as to the depth of its riches, but a good solid name going way back, with decent people. I was blessed with a great name to work with, and in the various things I did to change the company having that background was a huge asset to me. So when I say I started with nothing, I'm really talking about the bankroll—we had no bankroll. We were perilously close to bankrupcy when I joined the business, with all these banks breathing down our necks, and the Federal Government to boot!

Therefore, starting with little except a fine name, I did accomplish the creation of a successful, almost pioneering, business (meaning mail-order), and was able thereby (also successfully passing the torch to others by selling it) to provide a comfortable financial environment for my family and myself for as far as the eye could see.



A selection of Breck's catalogues spanning almost a century. From left to right: 1867, 1888, 1954, 1960-61.

WELCOME

to the Classics Sale

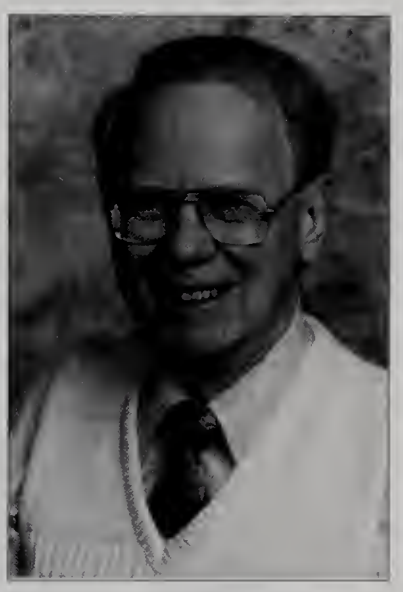
by Kenneth Bressett

The New Kid on the Block

You about to participate in an exciting premier numismatic event. The newly formed American Numismatic Rarities, LLC, is proudly presenting for your consideration an outstanding assortment of numismatic treasures that is bound to appeal to collectors of all interests, and titillate even those who may not be seasoned auction buyers. I was privileged to have a sneak preview of the material in this extraordinary sale and am happy to share with you my impressions of the quality of the material, and professionalism that has gone into presenting it at public auction.

It is no secret that my burning numismatic passion lies in the literature and research connected with the hobby. Books and auction catalogues are inseparable from the coins they describe, and indispensable to successful collecting. Those of you who feel the same will quickly see that this auction has been catalogued with the kind of care and attention that we have come to expect from the veteran American Numismatic Rarities team. You can anticipate finding something new and interesting on every page of this catalogue. The listings are thorough, informative, descriptive and accurate, whether the coin is rare or common. That is what transforms an ordinary auction catalogue into a functional reference work.

The evolution of this catalogue is reminiscent of the David S. Wilson sale of March 1907 that was S.H. Chapman's first auction after a 27-year partnership with his brother Henry Chapman. S.H. continued to produce quality auction catalogues and even surpassed those of the old association. Chapman's premier sale, like this one, contained an exciting offering of gold rarities and Proof coins, patterns, and a little bit of everything. That sale featured the first offering of an 1861-D dollar at a price (it realized $280!) that will be interesting to compare with what the piece in this sale brings. It is not unlikely that this very catalogue will take its place in your library along side those of Chapman and other classics of the past. In here you will find something memorable to fit every taste from the ultra rare to modern collectibles.



There are far too many highlights in this sale to list them all individually. Among those that I found most intriguing are the exceptional Colonial coins that include a pleasing assortment of Massachusetts silver Oak Tree pieces, and many high-grade copper pieces, a unique Getz "cent" in copper on a small planchet, and extraordinary examples of Immunis Columbia and Chalmers coins, as well as several nice New Jersey coppers. Of special interest to copper collectors will be the MS-62 BN 1795 Punctuated Date half cent, and a respectable run of Proofs from 1833 to 1856. Two Condition Census 1793 cents will whet the appetite of everyone. The first is a Sheldon-3 Chain cent that is NGC certified as MS-64 BN. That delicacy is followed by an equally desirable Wreath S-11a, in EF-45, ex-French, that was last auctioned in 1933. The successful buyer of that coin will get not only an extraordinary coin, but also a piece of numismatic history, as described in Lot 107. Be sure to read the electrifying details of how this coin came to be included in this sale.

The Larry Steve collection of small cents will intrigue many with its dazzling 1858/7 in MS-64, and other exciting varieties. Larry is a founder and former president of the "Fly-In" Club and a devoted stu-

dent of Flying Eagle and Indian cents. He has discovered many new varieties and done much to popularize the series. His collection, which is now offered in this sale, is particularly rich in rarities and high-grade specimens. An equally amazing collection of five-cent nickel coins is also on the block. The Richard M Collection of Proof Buffalo nickels is the current second finest "Set Registry," and all-time third finest set according to PCGS. Silver coins included in this sale feature key dates and emphasis on the exceptional condition of Uncirculated and Proof pieces. The 1796 quarter in AU-58 and 1797 dollar in MS-62, will both elicit spirited bidding, as will the 1873-CC No Arrows half dollar. Gold in this sale is equally impressive with many gems and scarce branch mint examples. The landmark 1879 $4 Stella in Proof-67 may well set a new price record.

Filling the role of something for everyone is a selection of gold commemorative coins that are part of the Luther A. Breck collection, the current second finest set on the PCGS Registry. The intriguing story of Luther Beck is presented elsewhere in this catalogue, and will be an inspiration to all collectors. Imagine adding one or more of his coins to your collection! The Proof coins in this sale include not only superb gold issues, but complete Proof sets of 1898 and 1908. Territorial gold and fascinating pieces from the *S.S. Central America* recovery are highlighted, along with a run of 175 certified California Fractional Gold pieces. It is rare to find so many different varieties of these tiny coins offered at any one time. The listings will probably be used for years to come as a reference and price guide. Among the other unusual items included are two mind-bending off-center Morgan dollars and an incredible double struck 1923 Peace dollar.

Pattern coins are among the hottest items today, and are represented by almost 100 pieces in this sale. They are sure to attract excited attention from the new generation of collectors that are learning to appreciate their beauty and rarity. Spirited bidding is expected in this area in anticipation of a new edition of the Judd reference book that is scheduled to be released in August. Q. David Bowers has edited the expanded and updated revision. And a special new section has also been added to the *Guide Book of United States Coins*, giving an overview and capsule glimpse of the world of pattern collecting.

The premier auction of American Numismatic Rarities, LLC, of Wolfeboro, NH, promises to be a gala event to be long remembered. You are invited to attend in person to join in the excitement and opportunity to acquire some of the memorable coins that will cross the auction block. The sale will be held at the Pier 5 Hotel, on the waterfront in Baltimore, a short walk from the Baltimore Convention Center and the ANA Money Show, in the heart of the historic Inner Harbor. The setting will give visitors a chance to participate not only in an outstanding auction, but to take in the flavor of a city steeped in numismatic tradition and lore.

Ken Bressett
ANA Past President
Editor, *Guide Book of United States Coins*

THE SESSION

Friday, July 25 - 1:00 pm Sharp
Harbor West Room

COLONIAL AND EARLY AMERICAN COINS

Our Classics Sale begins with a superb selection of American classics – the avidly collected issues of the colonial and Confederation era. Once newcomers overcome the initial trepidation brought on by the swarm of information that surrounds these issues – die varieties and die states, varied weights and striking qualities, and more – they inevitably count these issues among their favorites to collect and study. Our offering begins with the charming issues of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, including several nice quality Oak Tree shillings and particularly nice examples of the twopence and threepence denominations. Specialists in state coinage will find our offerings of Connecticut, New Jersey, and Massachusetts coppers to include several scarce varieties and Condition Census specimens, including some Mint State pieces! If your interest in pre-federal coins is by variety, or by major type, we hope you will find these pieces meet your quality standards. Among colonial type coins, a superb Pitt halfpenny, excellent Long Worm Chalmers shilling, and a unique specimen of the Getz "cent" in copper are highlights, and the Libertas Americana medal of 1783 bridges the gap between our Revolutionary history and the earliest days of the U.S Mint.

Pleasing VF Oak Tree Shilling

(2x photo)

1 **1652 Massachusetts Oak Tree shilling. Noe-1. Rarity-3. VF-30 (PCGS).** Even medium gray with light gray devices and choice eye appeal for the grade. Struck on an oblong planchet, IN weak but present on obverse, DO of DOM soft but present on reverse, planchet crack through G of ENGLAND, inborn flaw at rim at N of IN. The tree and central reverse are very bold, as are nearly all of the legends, a few hairlines noted between II of the denomination under magnification. This piece would make an ideal Oak Tree type coin, free of notable post-striking flaws and full of visual appeal.

71.0 grains, according to encapsulation.

From Stack's sale of the Hain Collection of Massachusetts Silver, January 2002, Lot 14.

parallel with the top of the harp. Incidentally, as noted in the Norweb catalogue, a small hoard of silver farthings including the Roper coin, the Robison coin, the Stemberg coin, the first Norweb coin, the Brand II coin, and the Promised Lands (Pine Tree) coin appeared in the last century. All of those mentioned were from the same dies as each other but different dies from the presently offered coin. Indeed, the Norweb sale is the only sale we know of containing a specimen of this variety, a piece that similarly was graded AU-50 in the sale.

Very Rare LON DON Elephant Token

(2x photo)

12 **Undated Elephant token. LON DON variety. Breen-10, Hodder 2-D. VF-20 (PCGS).** Rich medium to dark olive-brown, a shade darker on obverse than reverse. A detailed specimen, well deserving of its assigned grade, central reverse not quite fully struck up as seen on all but a few individual high-grade survivors of this variety. Some microscopic roughness at top of obverse and scattered around devices, light planchet striations at central reverse as often seen, light handling marks and scratches include several tiny circular digs on obverse. Three minor reverse rim nicks are noted for accuracy. One of the rarest of the Elephant token varieties, and one that often goes years between offerings. The Roper and Norweb pieces are two of the nicest, with Breen's plate coin showing moderate roughness. A thorough census of this variety has not been done, but it seems likely that a dozen or fewer survive in all grades. A significant variety and well-known rarity within the colonial series.

Glossy High-Grade Pitt Halfpenny

13 **1766 Pitt halfpenny. Breen-251. Betts-519. AU-53 (PCGS).** Glossy milk chocolate brown with superb eye appeal. Lively surfaces retain significant lustre and show only light, even wear on the highest points. Smooth and well-preserved with only a tiny patch of roughness noted between the third and fourth buttons on Pitt's great coat. Some old, parallel pinscratches are noted with a glass above and behind Pitt's head but are not a significant distraction, a few lighter ones are scattered and unimportant on the reverse. A supremely popular colonial type coin for good reason, the Pitt halfpenny directly relates to the Stamp Act controversy and the political awareness that sprung from that attempt at American taxation. The present specimen is an ideal representative of this avidly sought copper.

Lustrous 1767 French Colonies Sou
An Underrated Rarity in High Grade

14 **French Colonies. 1767-A sou. Breen-700. No counterstamp. MS-62 BN (PCGS).** Rich lustrous chocolate brown with a hint of faded mint color on the mintmark side (reverse?). The surfaces are free of serious marks, though several parallel scratches and filemarks that pre-existed the striking of the planchet remain visible, accounting for the assigned grade. The initial appearance is that of a higher grade, and the central strike on both sides is finer than usually encountered. This emission, which saw great circulation among the Caribbean Isles and presumably those North American ports which fed off their trade, was a successful one; the coins circulated widely and mostly became well worn. In 1793, most of the issue (though perhaps not the 95% that Breen estimates) was counterstamped RF as a revaluation for Guadeloupe, the island for which France sacrificed Canada by the Peace of 1763. Few serious colonial type collections contain a piece finer than VF, with Extremely Fine specimens something of a surprise inclusion. Only a few individual pieces are known finer than this, with only one or two with real claims to gem status; given the realities of a global coin market, it seems unlikely than many superb gems are hiding in French collections in the modern day. The present example would serve a colonial type coin connoisseur well and will never require an upgrade.

15 **1785 Vermont copper. Ryder-2. Landscape, VERMONTS. Rarity-2. EF-45 (PCGS).** Brassy tan devices contrast with dark olive and light brown fields. An extremely sharp specimen of the VERMONTS type, with an especially bold date not yet affected by the coming die crack and full legends, though the area where DECIMA ends and STELLA begins is a bit weak. The surfaces show some very fine pitting and granularity, but the overall impact is positive. Nice sunface and central devices, the plow just beginning to fade from die sinking. A good type coin.

16 **1786 Vermont copper. Ryder-8. Landscape, VERMONTENSIUM. Rarity-4-. VF-20 (PCGS).** Lovely chocolate brown and tan, highly glossy to the naked eye, coated with a thin layer of removable lacquer that has begun to flake in places. Lacquer, a problem until the first drop of acetone makes it a non-issue, has protected many coins' surfaces quite ably and this coin is no exception. Though some minor fissures are noted under ONTE and above the plowbeam, the planchet quality is far above that which one usually encounters on a Ryder-8, which seems to be one of the more plagued varieties of the series, along with the next Ryder number in the series. The strike is even and the legends are complete to the letter, giving the appearance of a great rarity: an undergraded certified confederation copper! Indeed, once the flaking lacquer is properly removed, this coin will appear vastly better and will indeed go up a partial grade to most observers. A very nice example of this variety indeed.

17 **1786 Vermont copper. Ryder 8. Landscape, VERMONTENSIUM. Rarity-4-. F-12.** Dark brown with granular surfaces. A sharp example with full obverse legends and date, the last few letters of PUBLICA somewhat weak, reverse legends full except for first few letters of DECIMA. Soft at plow and opposite area on reverse. Several deep crisscross scratches are noted at central obverse. A nicely detailed coin that is ideal for a budget-minded collector seeking an example of the Landscape type.

95.9 grains.

From the collection of Mike Bristow.

18 **1786 Vermont copper. Ryder-8. Landscape, VERMONTENSIUM. Rarity-4. VF-20+.** Nice glossy tan, a choice color that lends exceptional eye appeal to this specimen. Depression at lower right obverse above date, an artifact of the striking process, tiny nick at top of 1 of date, light roughness at D of DECIMA likewise a striking defect. Complete legends save for the last few letters of PUBLICA, ideal centering, bold date. About as nice a Vermont landscape in this grade range as a collector could hope for – a lovely type coin.

108.8 grains.

19 **1788 Vermont copper. Ryder-16, Mailed Bust Right. Rarity-1. VF-30.** Nice glossy medium brown with mostly smooth surfaces showing only insignificant roughness among letters of legend. The usual central obverse depression is barely noted here, effaced by a bold strike that likewise leaves only a tiny depression at central reverse. Full date on planchet, no flaws of consequence. Popular among type collectors, Ryder-16s draw strong premiums with superlative color and smooth surfaces like this.

100.7 grains.

20 **1788 Vermont copper. Ryder-24, Mailed Bust Right. Rarity-3. VF-30.** Two-tone dark brown and tan with good eye appeal despite moderate roughness on both sides. Very sharp for the variety, full date and legends and strong central detail. Some minor corrosion below bust, minor pinscratches blend into patina. Far sharper than most of this variety, a good Vermont copper for the new colonial enthusiast.

115.2 grains.

21 **1788 Vermont copper. Ryder-25, Mailed Bust Right. Rarity-2+. VF-35.** No undertype. Medium brown and tan with smooth surfaces and good eye appeal. Some surface dirt is noted, but the surfaces appear pleasing and glossy with a bare minimum of roughness. Nicely struck and well detailed, a very sharp specimen of this variety, which appears on both virgin and host planchets. A few tiny fissures noted under date, reverse aligned towards 12:00, much of ET off planchet, obverse aligned to 3:00 with AUCTORI hanging on rim. A high quality Vermont copper to represent the type or variety.

111.7 grains.

The Rare 1787 Hercules Head CT Copper

34 **1787 Connecticut copper. Miller 7-I, the Hercules Head. Rarity-6. VF-30,** counterstamped. An important coin among the Connecticut series, a high-grade specimen of a distinctive and rare variety. Pleasing medium brown with nearly smooth surfaces, lightly rough at peripheries and showing several significant parallel vertical striations on the reverse. Twice counterstamped with a punch resembling the letter I, once neatly in the right obverse field and again below central reverse, an impression that mildly distorts the nose of the Hercules figure. A single horizontal striation is noted at the chin on the obverse, nicely centered with date nearly fully on planchet and all digits legible, die rotation near 90°, full legends and remarkably bold detail. Indeed, this piece likely ranks among the very sharpest known, nearly as sharp as the Oechsner coin and about the same as the Roper piece, both of which werenoted as being in the Condition Census recently. The counterstamp, of course, affects the value of the piece but the desirability of a seriously sharp specimen of the 1787 Hercules Head remains high. A coin to chase if Connecticut coppers are a significant interest.

132.6 grains.

35 **1787 Connecticut copper. Miller 13-D, Mailed Bust Left. Rarity-2. VF-35+.** Smooth chocolate brown with lovely eye appeal. Choice for the grade, obverse misaligned a trifle to 7:00, full legends and date with no significant flaws. A perfect type coin.

133.2 grains.

36 **1787 Connecticut copper. Miller 33.2-z.5. Draped Bust Left. Rarity-1. AU-50 (PCGS).** Highly glossy chocolate brown strikes a pleasing balance with tan brassy highlights. Very attractive, boldly detailed, a more even and sharper strike than either of the Perkins coins, both graded EF. Some typical central roughness in the devices, small patch of roughness at the seated figure's bun on the reverse. An ideal type coin with uncommon eye appeal.

Mint State 1787 Miller 33.3-W.1

Condition Census

(2x photo)

37 **1787 Connecticut copper. Miller 33.3-W.1. Draped Bust Left. Rarity-5. MS-62 BN (PCGS).** Full frosty lustre on mahogany brown surfaces. A sharp and lovely piece, ranking in the Condition Census for the variety. Nice strike, minor central roughness, soft at central reverse figure but fully defined nonetheless aside from the weak face, planchet chip at shoulder of seated figure, tiny nick at obverse figure's nose. Die states slightly earlier than the Perkins piece, better defined and smoother than that Condition Census specimen. Full date, really a lovely coin. As a type coin, a lustrous Draped Bust Left is not encountered every day and is worthy of strong support as such; specialists may find that this piece is even more special as a superb example of this scarce variety.

PCGS Population: 2, 1 finer (MS-63 BN).

Lustrous 1787 Connecticut Copper

38 **1787 Connecticut copper. Miller 33.7-r.2. Draped Bust Left. Rarity-1. EF-40 (PCGS).** Choice chocolate brown with an abundance of frosty lustre – enough that a grade significantly higher than that assigned would not be questioned by most collectors of the se-

ries. Some roughness on head of obverse figure and at central reverse, softness of strike typical of this somewhat abundant variety. No post-striking flaws, we note only a tiny spot above U of AUCTORI. A superb type coin, choice and beautiful and ideal for a high quality collection.

39 **1787 Connecticut copper. Miller 33.34-z.11. Draped Bust Left. Rarity-5. EF-45 (PCGS).** Attractive light to medium brown with orange-tan highlights on the obverse. Pleasing even strike and good eye appeal. Nice for the grade, slightly less sharp than the Perkins coin, an above average specimen.

Condition Census M. 37.13-HH

40 **1787 Connecticut copper. Miller 37.13-HH. Draped Bust Left. Rarity-5 or better. EF-45.** A choice specimen of this rare variety, ideally centered on a light brown planchet with brassy high points. Some light parallel striae on both sides, a tiny patch of roughness between the head and rim, sharply detailed and nicely struck. A **Condition Census** quality specimen of the variety, with the Perkins cataloguer noting the best seen is a Choice EF coin. The punctuation is especially bold, and unusual detail is also present in the shield and hair on the reverse. A prize for the Connecticut copper specialist and an upgrade for most collectors.

126.2 grains.

Exquisite AUCTOPI Copper
1787 Miller 41-ii

41 **1787 Connecticut copper. Miller 41-ii. Draped Bust Left, the AUCTOPI variety. Rarity-4. VF-30 (PCGS).** One of the nicest examples we've seen of this popular and scarce variety. Fully glossy smooth tan surfaces, traces of lustre apparent, no marks of any consequence and only the most minor planchet striations in the left obverse field noted for identification of this **probable Condition Census** specimen. Some softness of strike at base of seated figure on reverse, date full, AUCTOPI clear though die is beginning to erode, nicely struck obverse. The Perkins coin was a little sharper in areas but was microgranular. Connecticut specialists will find this piece to be one of the most desirable specimens of this variety to come on the market in many years, and they may even adjudge this piece's grade to be higher than the level offered on the encapsulation.

Rare 1788 M. 3-B.1 Overstrike

42 **1788 Connecticut copper. Miller 3-B.1. Mailed Bust Right. Rarity-6. F-12.** Overstruck on 1785 Nova Constellatio, Pointed Rays, Large U.S., variety indeterminate. Dark chocolate brown with significant gloss and pleasing tan high points. Surfaces are microscopically granular but most acceptable, very fine scratches over most of the surface area of both sides blend into patina, scrape from rim at 3:00 on reverse. The undertype shows boldly on both sides, especially at centers, with some peripheral legends and stars visible under scrutiny. Obverse misaligned to 3:00 as sometimes seen on this variety, reverse well centered, die alignment 160°. A sharper than average specimen of this interesting and rare die marriage that is typically seen with Nova Constellatio undertypes.

104.0 grains.

From the collection of Mike Bristow.

43 **1787 New Jersey copper. Maris 6-C. Rarity-4. VF-25.** Lovely deep chocolate brown with a bold, even strike for the variety. Uncommonly seen so fine, nearly full denticles on the obverse, the beautiful C reverse stands out with bold detail and excellent visual appeal for the grade. Minor depression at central reverse, some surface roughness in obverse legend, free of serious handling marks. The 6-C is a distinctive and popular variety, many times rarer than the 6-D and with the added cachet of a die link to the very rare Immunis Columbia and Gen. Washington mules. The present example will answer the call for an above average specimen seen on so many want lists of those enthusiastic about the New Jersey copper series.

142.8 grains.

variety which places it among the most detailed specimens from these dies. Small patch of roughness to lower left of shield, scattered light handling marks, tiny rim bruise at point of plow, die flaw advanced above R in PLURIBUS. The shield lines are intact and the jumbo-nostrilled horsehead is bold even in mane details. A significant rarity in this grade range, superior to the Henry Garrett coin, similar in sharpness terms to Taylor's, lacking in O'Donnell. A worthy addition to any collection of the series.

147.4 grains.

55 **1787 New Jersey copper. Maris 48-g. Rarity-1. VF-30.** Glossy medium brown with smooth surfaces and tan highpoints. A lovely example of this frequently encountered variety and popular type coin, two rim bruises atop the obverse are none too serious, tiny spot along right side of shield, some natural striations above NOVA. Late die state with diagonal crack across shield, few denticles remaining. A nice mid-grade type coin.

147.1 grains.

Sharp 1788 Head Left New Jersey

56 **1788 New Jersey copper. Maris 50-f. Head Left. Rarity-3. VF-25.** Pleasing medium to dark brown with light tan central highlights. Some light striations and underlying microscopic roughness is visible on the planchet, but overall visual appeal is strong. Obverse is especially bold, with only light weakness at the fully visible letters CAE at 12:00, reverse weaker as always with light strike at base of shield also affecting E. A pleasing specimen in this grade range, above average quality for this very desirable type.

150.4 grains.

57 **1788 New Jersey copper. Maris 50-f. Head Left. Rarity-3. VF-25.** Deep steel with typical striated surfaces. Obverse is very sharp, more detailed than the reverse as usually seen, with full legends and bold date. The reverse is better detailed than usual with RIBUS UNUM plain, strong lines through most of the shield, and the denticles on the left side all present. A patch of corrosion is present at the upper left corner of the shield, other tiny pits noted on shield are inoffensive. A very desirable specimen of the popular and scarce Head Left type, an example most collectors would be more than happy to own.

139.6 grains.

Bold Maris 56-n Overstrike on Machin's 1/2d

58 **1787 New Jersey copper. Maris 56-n. Rarity-1. VF-30.** Struck on a 1787 Machin's Mills halfpenny, Vlack 19-87C. Even deep gray-brown with nice surface quality and overall appeal. An impressive overstrike with the large 1787 date of the host bold to the right of the smaller New Jersey date, much of the seated Britannia plain, and III REX bold at the reverse periphery, allowing for positive attribution of the undertype. Only tiny handling marks commensurate with the grade, no serious post-striking flaws. Maris 56-n, perhaps the single most common state copper variety, appears with a great diversity of host coins, with Connecticut coppers most common by a significant margin. Machin's Mills halfpenny undertypes are significantly scarcer, and they infrequently appear this bold. A sharp and smooth example that will enamor any specialist in the series.

125.1 grains.

Breen Plate Maris 62-q
Large Planchet

59 **1787 New Jersey copper. Maris 62-q. Rarity-1. EF-45.** Glossy chocolate brown with exquisite smooth, hard surfaces. Exceptional eye appeal, some light surface dirt clings to devices, oval splash of mahogany beneath horse's neck identifies this clearly as the Breen plate coin for Breen-941 in the *Encyclopedia*. Tiny nick below center of shield, central details at least average for the grade, well centered with at least the tips of all denticles present, late die state with crack at point of plow. One of the most popular varieties in the New Jersey series for the type collector, a natural considering its broad impressive planchet stock and distinctive designs. Specialists and type collectors alike will enjoy the nice color and surfaces of this specimen as well as its relative fame among others of this variety as the Breen plate coin. A very desirable horsehead copper.

147.5 grains.

Superb Maris 63-q Large Planchet

60 **1787 New Jersey copper. Maris 63-q. Rarity-1. EF-45.** Glossy and smooth dark chocolate brown surfaces with slightly lighter designs. A most attractive example with excellent surfaces and sharpness in the range of the Condition Census of this variety. Minor depression on horse's neck, a few faint pinscratches noted under scrutiny but not serious within usual central reverse soft spot, heavy cud at upper left corner of shield. Reverse ideally centered, obverse barely misaligned towards 4:00. A very nice copper, an upgrade for many specialist or a perfect type coin that the new owner should be proud to display.

157.2 grains.

The Taylor 63-q

61 **1787 New Jersey copper. Maris 63-q. Large Planchet. Rarity-1. F-15 (PCGS).** An undergraded coin, called a VF-20 in the 1987 Taylor sale and perhaps even a bit better than that. Ideal medium brown surfaces are smooth and appealing, a sharp specimen with some definition in the often flat eye and peripheral portions of the centrally weak shield bold. Some inconsequential roughness is noted mostly within the legends, tiny depression near upper center of shield, nick at corner of N in UNUM makes identification of this piece simple. Late die state with crack to P in PLURIBUS from rim. In demand as a Large Planchet type coin, this piece is nicer than most and has enough eye appeal to make it a happy inclusion in any collection. The O'Donnell collection lacked this relatively common variety.

154.1 grains, according to the Taylor catalogue.

From Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.'s sale of the Frederick B. Taylor Collection, March 1987, Lot 2259.

The Damon Douglas 68-w

62 **1787 New Jersey copper. Maris 68-w. Rarity-5. VF-20.** Pleasing tan devices contrast with dark olive fields. Moderately and evenly rough on both sides, compact planchet precludes presence of date, two tiny clips at O of NOVA and C of CAESAREA. Legends bold, depression at central reverse, inborn planchet lamination at N of NOVA, excellent detail for this rare variety which seems unfairly slanted towards low-grade, ugly specimens. Despite its surfaces, this piece retains good visual appeal and has no significant problems. A good chance to add a rarity to your collection.

128.6 grains.

From Stack's sale of the Damon Douglas Collection of New Jersey Coppers, in the Robert Kissner sale of June 1975, Lot 175. While the piece is unplated, the description describes this piece perfectly including "a planchet flaw at N of NOVA."

Mint State 1787 MA Half Cent
Condition Census

63 **1787 Massachusetts half cent. Ryder 1-D. Rarity-4. MS-62 BN (NGC).** The "Floating Boot" obverse. Lustrous golden brown with some olive highlights. Good eye appeal, some microscopic pits scattered in fields and minor hairlines on the reverse, struck as well as the similar Norweb coin with small central obverse weakness. Light scratch noted over left shoulder of eagle. A nice example of this scarce variety, part of the Condition Census that descends to AU – Mike Packard's research indicates that this die pair is "tough above VF." The Taylor Ryder 1-D was a porous Fine. An attractive coin, ideal for a specialist but a prime type coin as well.

Rare Ryder 2-A 1787 MA Half Cent
Condition Census

64 **1787 Massachusetts half cent. Ryder 2-A. Rarity-5+. MS-62 BN (NGC).** Even and glossy dark chocolate brown with hard surfaces. Microscopic pitting is present on both sides, but does not impact the eye appeal in a serious way. A very bold strike, excellent definition throughout with only the most minor central weakness, earlier die state than the Norweb coin, with a smaller die flaw under MM of COMMON, similar sharpness to that coin but not quite as smooth. A rare variety, this specimen is of Condition Census quality and retains superb visual appeal. A prize for the advanced Massachusetts copper collector.

Choice EF 1787 Immunis Columbia

(2x photo)

73 **1787 Immunis Columbia copper. Breen-1137. EF-45.** Exceptional glossy chocolate brown with immense eye appeal. Smooth and attractive, ideal color to be sure. Some positively insignificant roughness is noted among the letters of the reverse legend, two small pits under liberty cap, perfectly centered with a complete date and all letters on planchet. An important Confederation-era coinage type, here represented by a finely detailed and very appealing specimen that would grace any cabinet.

170.2 grains.

From Bowers and Merena's November 1999 sale, Lot 26.

Superb 1783 Chalmers Shilling
Rare Long Worm Type

74 **1783 Chalmers shilling. Breen-1012. EF-40 (PCGS).** Light silver gray shows pleasing undertones of pale blue and subtle gold. Quite simply, a lovely example of this Annapolis, Maryland emission – a centered strike, good eye appeal, only faint handling marks. A small area of weakness is present at the base of the 3 in the date and at the opposite location at the reverse cluster, but the all-important centers are extremely bold for the grade on both sides. After having intensely studied the Chalmers issues for the last several months, your cataloguer (JK) is well aware of just how ugly these often are and just how scarce the Long Worm variety is in comparison to its Short Worm counterpart – at least five times scarcer and certainly more so in grades better than this. Indeed, the Long Worm is a significant rarity over EF grade, and even finer ones rarely have such sharp clasped hands on the reverse. At present, the market recognizes no premium value for this die variety, a testament to the fact that most collectors are satisfied with but one Chalmers shilling. This market lethargy and the superb quality of this coin spells a serious opportunity for bidders. A significant offering of this rarity.

A study of the Chalmers silver issues of 1783 is complete, having been presented at the most recent ANS Coinage of the Americas Conference, and awaits future publication. Chalmers, a silversmith, patriot, and Annapolis mover-and-shaker, went broke soon after his coinage was produced, became an itinerant preacher, freed his slaves, and became an outspoken advocate for the abolition of slavery. He also became a drunk and was thrown out of the Methodist Church for certain indiscretions in 1813. The Long Worm variety is best recognized by the hedge running from N to I (as opposed to N to N for the short worm) and the decoration between ONE and SHILLING which contains no internal cross. It appears that the Long Worm shilling was struck after the Short Worms, which share a common reverse.

75 **1787 Auctori Plebis token. Breen-1187. EF-40 (PCGS).** Light brown and gray with good visual appeal for this scarce token. Light, even wear with only light handling marks. A tough issue to acquire, especially in superb grades. Clearly inspired by the 1787-dated Connecticut coppers, at least a few of which must have made it to England after their mintage to fall under the purview of a token manufacturer who was enduring a day without creativity.

Rare Mott Token Variety
Engrailed Edge, MS-63 (PCGS)

76 **"1789" Mott token. Breen-1025. Thin planchet, engrailed edge. MS-63 (PCGS).** Medium brown and dark olive with much golden lustre visible in recesses. Surface dirt clouds the lustre somewhat, an easily remedied situation should the new owner be bold enough to let the token emerge from its plastic enclosure. In spite of this, the surfaces show some reflectivity and the detail is extremely sharp, a combination of fine preservation with the very early die state that is seen on others of the thin planchet, engrailed edge type. The Roper piece, another very sharp example of this variety, shows the reverse misaligned to the same position and degree as this example. This type is significantly scarcer than the other two *Redbook* types, and it is priced as such in the recent editions. The important engrailed edge is visible through the holder. Rarely encountered in such a grade, regardless of the type, this piece would serve exquisitely in a type set or a carefully assembled collection highlighting the different varieties of this enigmatic early token.

77 **(ca. 1792) Kentucky token. Breen-1156. Lancaster edge. MS-65 BN (NGC).** Remarkable cartwheel lustre radiates from lively golden brown surfaces that still show impressive amounts of intermingled mint color. Fully struck hand with faint crack above, exceptional eye appeal for the issue, only the most minor contact marks. An above average quality example of this popular token issue.

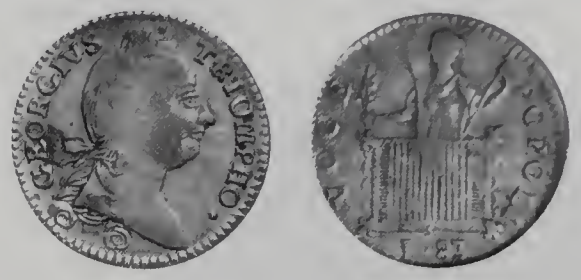
78 **(ca 1792) Kentucky token. Breen-1156. Lancaster edge. MS-63 BN (PCGS).** Mottled medium brown and tan with some mint color remaining in protected areas. Good surface quality and strike, a few tiny specks, an attractive specimen.

Rare Talbot Allum and Lee Muling
Blofield Cavalry

79 **1795 Talbot, Allum, and Lee / Blofield Cavalry mule. Breen-1051. MS-63.** Lustrous and lightly reflective brown and tan with plentiful remaining mint color on the Blofield Cavalry side. Glossy and attractive, trifling peripheral roughness, Talbot side aligned to 12:00 on the substantial 30.1 mm planchet, usual serpentine and dots edge device. An extremely rare muling, described on an accompanying "Colonial American Coin Club / First Coinvestors" card by Walter Breen as "partly red UNC. Very rare, one of the two rarest of the Talbot Mules" with his usual purple signature and a photo of this piece. Rarely offered with even the most significant cabinets of early American coinage, an opportunity to set your collection apart with the inclusion of a truly rare token.

169.0 grains.

Sharp and Attractive 1783 Georgius Triumpho



80 **1783 Georgius Triumpho. Breen-1184, Baker-7. AU-58 (PCGS).** Attractive light brown with pleasing surfaces. Superb sharpness for this usually flat issue, with good separation in the hair, detail in the profile, and bold peripheries on both sides. Light spot of verdigris hidden between MP of TRIUMPHO. A dark area is noted at EO of GEORGIUS with some other tiny specks elsewhere; this and other evidence of surface dirt would undoubtedly be minimized with a light brushing that would reveal natural lustre hidden beneath, which now peeks from the recesses. Late die state with crescent crack at upper reverse starting to affect the cage of bars but without seriously affecting central reverse detail like some later states. Date and all legends are sharp. This issue is rarely found sharper or more pleasing than this example

Rightly included by Atkins in the "Evasion" series, this piece was likely struck in the 1790s when other halfpenny imitations with evasionary legends were struck in Birmingham, which can also be posited as the likely place of origin for this issue.

81 **1791 Washington Large Eagle cent. Breen-1206, Baker-15. AU-55 (PCGS).** Glossy light to medium brown with appealing surfaces. A very attractive specimen overall, a tiny patch of roughness at the arrow claw, thin old scratch from base of first N in WASHINGTON. A very nice quality piece of this well-made Washington token.

82 **1791 Washington Small Eagle cent. Breen-1217. Baker-16. AU-58 (PCGS).** Light and medium brown, gently mottled with pleasing lustre persisting. An attractive example of this handsome token contemporary to Washington's first term with only some minor surface dirt clinging to devices and legends. The surfaces are smooth and glossy. A fine example of one of the nicest portraits of Washington in the round.

Unique Breen-1355 Getz Pattern
On Unusual Small Copper Planchet

(2x photo)

83 **1792 Getz pattern or "cent." Copper. Breen-1355. Unique. VF-25** or so. Appealing even chocolate brown with faint patches of light granularity. A fascinating piece, singled out by Walter Breen for enumeration on the basis of its 29.3 mm planchet. The piece shows ideal and purposeful centering on the obverse, with Getz's pleasing Washington bust to left nicely struck. The legends and date are weak at the rim but are present in their majority even if ill-defined. The reverse does not show the same ideal centering, with OF AMERICA complete though the rest of the legend is mostly off the planchet; the stars and eagle are complete and bold.

While copper strikes from Getz's pattern dies are known, and called "cents" on the basis of relative size and composition, this is the only example known that closely imitates the size of the large cent as adopted. As struck in 1793, cents were 208 grains by statute and tended to be a bit under 28 mm in diameter. This piece, by the 1793 standard, is slightly underweight at 197.0 grains and oversize at 29.3 mm. It shows no sign of undertype, but the size and weight preclude the ability to offhandedly dismiss that there is a federal cent lurking beneath. The edge is plain, though it could have been smoothed, given the weight. This is more sensible an explanation than a virgin copper planchet produced to a given weight standard, since both the 1792 standard (264 grains) and the 1793 standard (208) grains are heavier and the 1795 reduced weight standard was only 168 grains. George Fuld's 1995 ANS study on Washington coinage indicated that copper specimens were probably between late 1791 and the spring of 1792 – before any weight requirements were announced, making the above information a moot point. He notes this precise specimen as Fuld WA.1792.1a.o, stating "there is also a record, Harte 2041, of a Getz struck on a plain edge cent (1795 or 1796)." Of course, with the weight now known, we can rule out this possibility.

This fascinating and well-published specimen now becomes available to a new generation of those interested in the earliest days of the U.S. Mint. Peter Getz of Lancaster struck these pieces in hopes of receiving a government contract, striking small numbers of pieces in the two metals to show his work. It is possible that this piece was purposely coined from his dies upon a copper planchet that would closely imitate the first federal cents of 1793.

197.0 grains.

From Bowers and Ruddy's sale of the Roy Harte Collection, November 1977, Lot 2041. Cited by Breen (1988) and Fuld (1995). The 1977 auction ticket accompanies this lot.

Choice EF Club Rays Fugio Cent

84 **1787 Fugio cent. Newman 3-D. Club Rays. Rarity-4-. EF-45.** Lovely tan surfaces show significant gloss and pleasing olive halos around legends and design elements. Super strike, with obverse and reverse bold and denticles around nearly half the periphery. Light parallel planchet striations are present but are not a significant distraction given the quality of the coin, with a light lamination at the X of XII on the sundial. One of the nicest specimens of this popular variety a collector is likely to encounter, a particularly fine coin that will bring pride to its next owner's cabinet whether it is the only Fugio present or one among many.

125.3 grains.

Mint State 1787 Fugio Cent

85 **1787 Fugio cent. Newman 13-X. Rarity-1. MS-62 BN.** Full cartwheel lustre on lovely brown surfaces with tinges of mint color in protected regions of the obverse, the obverse fields appearing lightly reflective. Natural planchet roughness, common among this issue, present at 9:00 on obverse partially obscuring FU, more shallow roughness at central obverse, weak strike at northwest reverse exposes some preexisting marks in that area. Usual die state with reverse die crack at 6:00 and clash marks on obverse. As our first federal cent, many collectors choose to include a pleasing Fugio cent in a traditional U.S. type set. Luckily, enough nice Mint State pieces like this survive to put such a goal within the reach of many collec-

tors. The present specimen, with lovely color, lustre, and no post-striking problems or abuse, would fit ideally into just such a collection.

149.1 grains.

Nice Libertas Americana Medal in Copper

86 **1783 Libertas American medal. Copper. Betts-615. About Uncirculated.** Glossy and lightly reflective chocolate brown surfaces show some faint golden undertones. Superb surface quality, only the lightest hint of cabinet friction on the highest hair lock, light double striking clear in legends, some microscopic scattered flecks, thin old scratch from below E in AMERICANA stops at second of three long rear hair locks. A beautiful specimen of this most famous and popular of all American medals, sharp and never abused by the many hands that have handled it since its issuance in Paris at the behest of Benjamin Franklin, who is known to have preferred the image of American Liberty in copper over other medals.

While most American coin collectors are never so bold as to step over the precipice of medal collecting, if any single medal belongs in an American collection it is this one, whose design inspiration for the first American copper coins is well known. Of course, the extraordinary historicity of the medal is also a great attraction, since Benjamin Franklin oversaw the design and commission of the medals, in his words, "to perpetuate the memory of the Yorktown and Saratoga victories." Jefferson delivered a specimen to Washington in 1790; Martha Washington proudly displayed it at Mount Vernon. Jefferson himself took pride in his medal collection, and specimens in copper of the Libertas American were distributed to most of the leading men of the age in both Europe and the United States. While only a few specimens retain their pedigree (Washington's being the most notable of these), any single example is certain to have been held by one of the eminent friends of the young American republic.

HALF CENTS

The half cents of 1793 to 1857 were once a forgotten series, "the little half sisters" as Roger Cohen referred to them. Today, they enjoy a great deal of collector interest and intensive study as often seen in issues of the Early American Coppers Club journal *Penny-Wise*. In this sale we are pleased to offer a number of high-grade early half cents, including a Condition Census 1795 Cohen-4 in MS-62 (NGC). A fine selection of Liberty Caps and nice Draped Bust coins (including a superb specimen of the scarce 1805 with Small 5 and Stems) yields to later issues featuring a number of rare and desirable Proof strikings, many of them Proof-only issues today found in only the finest collections. While these half cents are often the greatest challenges to a date collector, here you have a chance to acquire Proofs of 1840, 1841, and 1844 among Proof-only dates, along with Proofs dated 1833, 1852, and 1856.

Note: All uncertified half cents and large cents are graded in accordance with "EAC" grading techniques, often conservative in relation to other standards, including "market grading."

Nice Tan VF 1794 Half Cent

87 **1794 Cohen-9, Breen-9. Rarity-2. VF-35 (PCGS).** Manley 3.0. Even deep tan with olive highlights around devices and some golden undertones. Mahogany spot before lips is subtle in person, tiny nick below truncation of bust, a bold even strike. Full of eye appeal, a coin that would fit perfectly into a well selected date set of half cents or a type set. A very pretty little coin.

88 **1795 C-2a, B-2a. Rarity-3. Punctuated Date, Lettered Edge. F-15 (PCGS).** Manley 3.0. Attractive medium golden brown with darker halos around design elements. Only tiny contact points commensurate with assigned grade, dig noted under F of OF, a few light hairlines at central obverse. A popular major variety that is scarcely found in high grade. Worthy of a specialized collection.

Superb Quality 1795 Cohen-4 Half Cent

Punctuated Date

(2x photo)

89 **1795 C-4, B-4. Rarity-3. Punctuated Date, Plain Edge. MS-62 BN (NGC).** Manley 2.0. Smooth medium brown and tan surfaces boast exceptional visual appeal, with significant underlying lustre on the obverse. Natural depression at Liberty's cheek exhibits some inherent pre-striking contact marks, central reverse a bit weak as typical but HALF CENT is complete. A few minor spots at reverse periphery, spot of verdigris at O of OF, a glossy and thoroughly attractive specimen of the variety. Probably a **Condition Census** coin, only two "EAC" style Mint State coins are known, with the CC dipping to EF thereafter. The strike on this piece is superb for the variety, with full peripheries and bolder centers than often seen, a very even strike overall. The usual weak area near 10:00 on the reverse shows denticles that are individually defined. Far sharper than the highest grade specimen of this variety offered in the recent sale of the Dr. Wallace Lee half cent collection. Worthy of serious consideration by half cent connoisseurs, a specimen with most of the qualities a collector could look for in seeking an example of this variety.

90 **1795 C-6a, B-6c. Rarity-2. VF-35 (PCGS).** Manley 1.0, scarce early die state. Overstruck on a cut down Talbot, Allum, and Lee token. Mottled medium brown, tan, and pale olive with smooth surfaces and very nice eye appeal. Some lettering from the TAL host is visible, ship's rigging present near truncation of bust. Some light hairlines suggest a long ago cleaning from which this pleasing specimen has recovered naturally. A well struck and most desirable specimen which will suit the collector who seeks a very sharp 1795 half cent.

Smooth 1797 Cohen-2 Half Cent

91 **1797 C-2, B-2. Rarity-3. Plain Edge. EF-40 BN (NGC).** Choice even dark chocolate brown, an attractive and ideal tone, with smooth and appealing surfaces. The central reverse is a bit weak, as usual, and shows some marks that pre-existed striking; the obverse shows only insignificant central weakness. Some dark buildup is present in most of the letters, thin curved scratch from I in LIBERTY to the base of R, minor scattered nicks, two old hairlines from rim at 3:00 on reverse to near center. A difficult variety to locate with this kind of strong visual appeal.

Boldly Lustrous 1800 Half Cent

(2x photo)

92 **1800 C-1, B-1. Rarity-2. MS-65 BN (NGC).** Manley 3.0. Lustrous and frosty medium brown, faded from mint color, with some red still seen in the northwest obverse. Some minor flyspecks are visible against the backdrop of faded red. An attractive specimen of the date with excellent surface quality. A scrape right of F of OF is noted, only minor marks otherwise. Bold strike, scarce die state with die scratch above F of HALF still plain. This specimen is the finest 1800 certified by NGC and is worthy of a superb collection.

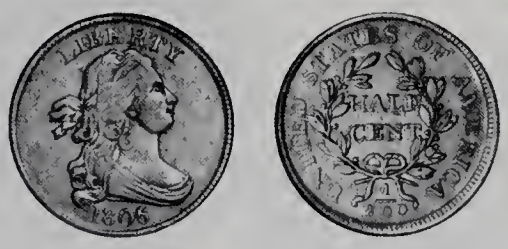
NGC Census: 1; none finer.

Pleasing 1805 Small 5, Stems Half Cent

(2x photo)

93 **1805 C-3, B-3. Rarity-4+. Small 5, Stems. F-15 (PCGS).** Manley 2.0. Glossy and attractive mottled medium brown with mostly smooth surfaces. A most attractive specimen of this usually ugly variety, one that a half cent collector could easily get excited about. The obverse shows the most minor sort of roughness at the left periphery, a tiny spot above the head, and only the most insignificant nicks, including a few off the truncation of the bust that are noted for identification. The reverse could use a brushing, but glossy surfaces are visible beneath a bit of surface dirt. The central reverse is a little weak, but CE remain complete and nicely defined. Some letters contain minor verdigris but the overall visual impact is really superb for the variety, especially in this grade range. The die alignment is barely left of normal coin turn. This piece will more than satisfy a diehard half cent variety enthusiast that has patiently awaited an attractive, undamaged example.

Scarce 1806 Cohen-2 Half Cent



94 **1806 C-2, B-1. Rarity-4. Small 6, Stems. EF-45 BN (NGC).** Manley 2.0. Excellent glossy chocolate brown surfaces with some mottled medium brown on the reverse. Free of all but the most minor handling marks, well above average eye appeal, microscopic roughness noted hugging rim above ITE of UNITED, tiny nick under chin noted for identification. A superb specimen of this important *Redbook* variety, one a finicky collector would be proud to own and display.

95 **1806 C-2, B-1. Rarity-4. Small 6, Stems. VF-20 (PCGS).** Manley 2.0. Medium brown and gray with good surface quality. Some surface dirt noted on both sides, reverse wreath and AMERICA show significant soft buildup within protected areas. No significant roughness, a few light hairlines on either side of Liberty's ear, no major nicks. A desirable specimen of a scarce major variety.

High-Grade 1828 12 Star Half Cent

96 **1828 C-2, B-3. Rarity-1. 12 Stars. MS-64 BN (PCGS).** Frosty lustre on medium brown and steel surfaces with plentiful mint red remaining around central devices and reverse legends. Excellent eye appeal, little spots noted at bottom curl and above O of OF, inborn roughness noted left of F in HALF is not significant. A bold and appealing specimen with only minor flyspecks. One of the most popular varieties in the entire half cent series.

PCGS Population: 6, 1 finer (MS-65 BN). Two pieces have been certified MS-64 RB with none finer.

Rare 1833 Proof Half Cent

(2x photo)

97 **1833 C-1, B-1. Rarity-5 as a Proof. Proof-64 BN (NGC).** Die states as Eliasberg:447 with no visible clash marks and fine die crack from stars 2 through 7 on obverse, said by Breen to have been "found only on Proofs." Deep olive and gold with bright rose highlights, a variegated and attractive color scheme on deeply reflective surfaces. Tan spot at star 4, planchet chip at inside point of star 13 and smaller ones elsewhere, two lint marks at star 5 and another at chin. Each detail is crisply struck and fully realized, including lathe marks on the bust. Some light hairlines in the fields almost avoid notice and account for a still higher grade not being offered. While some "Proof" half cents of this issue seem to be more full of questions than answers, this piece has everything going for it regarding its status as a Proof coin. A nice addition to an advanced half cent collection, or a striking statement as an inclusion in a type set.

NGC Census: 5; 1 finer (Proof-65 BN). Three pieces have been certified Proof RB, one each at the 63, 64, and 65 level. The Eliasberg coin was certified at the same grade level as this specimen.

Proof-Only 1840 Half Cent Rarity
Large Berries, Original

(2x photo)

98 **1840 B-1a. Original. Rarity-6. Proof-65 BN (NGC).** A lovely even light brown specimen with some vestiges of mint color apparent and pale blue overtones adding to excellent visual appeal. A very nice specimen of this Proof-only rarity, lint mark on neck, a few tiny specks in field beside star 3 noted under magnification, single spot under wreath noted for identification. The reflectivity of the surfaces is undeniable but subdued by some surface dirt, a formerly present bit of verdigris at the top of ES in STATES leaves behind a tiny grease streak with no further evidence of its presence. A real rarity, sought by generations of numismatists, rarely encountered except in important and specialized cabinets. This example is worthy of a connoisseur.

NGC Census: 1; none finer. One additional piece has been graded Proof-65 RB.

Proof-Only 1841 Original Half Cent

(2x photo)

99 **1841 B-1. Original. Rarity-6. Proof-65 BN (NGC).** Deeply reflective fields appear dark chocolate brown with traces of faded red around devices in oblique light, with direct light into their mirrors revealing bright gold and pale green highlights. Some peripheral flyspecks on obverse, spot between star 8 and rim, some light hairlines indicate a long ago cleaning as often found on this rare Proof-only issue. Tiny spot on cheekbone, excellent eye appeal overall. No half cent date collection is complete without a specimen of this issue. The present example would nicely fit the need of most collectors.

NGC Census: 4; none finer. Two additional pieces have been graded Proof-65 RB.

Exceptional 1844 Original Half Cent
A Proof-Only Issue

(2x photo)

100 **1844 B-1. Original. Rarity-6+. Proof-65 BN (NGC).** Remarkably even and beautiful deep chocolate brown with pristine surfaces. A minuscule nick squarely above Liberty's head and an equally tiny planchet chip at the right base of the first A of AMERICA are noted as identifiers in the absence of something grander. Well detailed, mirrors not particularly deep but still lively, a splash of mint color inside U of UNITED. About as nice an example of this very rare issue as any collector could hope to locate in a lifetime as long as concern for flashy mint color – a temporary situation – does not rank high on the list of desirables. A classic rarity in the half cent series.

NGC Census: 1, 1 finer (Proof-66 RB).

Careful examination reveals a recent fingerprint atop the obverse at the periphery – one that has not yet affected the color or surfaces but simply manifests as an oily patch. We recommend careful, expert removal – a simple and harmless matter – before this fingerprint has a long-term impact on the exquisite color exhibited on this specimen.

101 **1850 C-1, B-1. Rarity-1. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** Medium brown with plentiful mint red remaining on the obverse around all devices, reverse shows just a hint of mint color. An attractive, pleasing specimen of the date, lustre a bit subtle. A single tiny spot is noted on Liberty's neck which blends into patina, a few little specks near stars 1 and 2. A desirable high-grade cent with more color than commonly seen.

Nearly Full Red Proof 1852 Half Cent
First Restrike

(2x photo)

102 **1852 B-2. First Restrike. Rarity-5. Proof-66 RB (NGC).** Bright mint red and orange dominate deeply mirrored fields, lightly faded to deep violet in the obverse fields, mottled deep violet and olive on the equally bright reverse. An exceptional example. Spot on rim outside star 5, tiny spot above 2 in date, assorted scattered flyspecks including a few behind the eye. Finer than the Norweb piece which showed little mint color at all. A worthy inclusion in any cabinet.

NGC Census: 2, none finer.

Worthy Gem 1856 Proof Half Cent
An Ideal Proof Type Coin
Finest Certified by NGC

(2x photo)

103 **1856 B-3. Rarity-4. Proof 66 RB (NGC).** Bright crimson mint color blends beautifully with frosty blue in the fields and pale olive rims. One of the most attractive Proof half cents of this vintage we have seen, with deep mirrors and pristine surfaces. Spot inside star 8, tiny speck inside star 3, few flyspecks and no marks to note. While this variety is perhaps the most frequently encountered Proof half cent, it is still elusive in preservation like this. Those brave souls assembling world-class Proof type sets may find that this piece could find no better home than their collections.

NGC Census: 1; none finer.

LARGE CENTS

Large cents were the very first federal coins to attract collectors, and we are proud to offer superb specimens of the two dates that first received notice as rarities worth a strong premium: 1793 and 1799. Our offering of 1793 cents will forever be remembered, as two extremely high-grade specimens of the date – one a Chain, one a Wreath – reappear at auction after many years off the market. The descriptions of these important and highly pedigreed cents speak for themselves; they are American numismatic rarities in the purest sense. A newly discovered 1799 joins other important Draped Bust pieces, including a new Condition Census S-184, and fine quality late dates are also available for your bids. While only a few dozen pieces, we are very proud to offer this group of large cents.

Note: All uncertified half cents and large cents are graded in accordance with "EAC" grading techniques, often conservative in relation to other standards, including "market grading."

Scarce 1793 Sheldon-2 Chain Cent

104 **1793 Sheldon-2. Chain, AMERICA. Rarity-4+. Good-4,** a point or two sharper, fine pitting on both sides. The rarest of the collectible Chain cents. Dark chocolate brown with light brown high points, some irregular rose at top of Liberty's forehead and lowest curls is insignificant. All legends and date complete, though a bit weak as expected at this grade level, tiny rim nick at E in AMERICA, granularity is fine enough to not significantly impact the sharpness of the design elements. A collectible example of this ever popular first cent type.

Superb Quality 1793 Chain Cent
Plated in MacKenzie and Levick (1869)
MS-64 (NGC)

105 1793 S-3. Chain AMERICA. Rarity-3-. MS-64 BN (NGC). A well-pedigreed and superbly preserved specimen of our first cent type. Deep glossy chocolate brown with pale golden and deep blue undertones and strong reverse lustre. Smooth and appealing, radial die lines visible from advanced die state, chain clashed around central obverse device. Superbly detailed in the hair, portrait, and chain. Tiny vertical nick in left obverse field, a few minuscule rim bumps, tiny spot of foreign material sits atop coin at sixth hair strand but is easily removable. Few Chain cents of any variety approach this one for sharpness, eye appeal, and overall physical quality.

Of course, few cents of any type or variety can approach the history embodied in this particular specimen. First offered at auction in 1866, this specimen would grace two illustrative and illustrious firsts before the decade ended: the first ever photographically plated American numismatic auction catalogue and the first photographic guide to early copper varieties. The 1869 Mortimer MacKenzie sale by Edward Cogan was the first to use photography for its illustrations – a technological triumph and a monumental leap ahead in the production of numismatic auction catalogues in this country. The Crosby-Levick plate, an illustration of the 12 known obverse dies used on 1793 cents and their 10 reverse mates, was the standard guide for this inaugural year of the Mint until Sylvester Crosby revisited familiar ground in 1896. The Levick Plate, published in the April 1869 issue of the *American Journal of Numismatics*, featured this coin as the image of obverse 2. As a part of two famous firsts, we are proud to offer this coin in the first sale conducted by American Numismatic Rarities, LLC.

While few Chain cents can best this one's overall quality, this piece was actually consigned by Ted Naftzger to the T. James Clarke sale (after buying the latter's large cent collection) as a duplicate. This coin is included among Del Bland's condition census of the variety as sixth best as an "EAC" style EF-45, with finer specimens impounded in private collections and the Earle-French-Clapp coin in the ANS. In the NGC Census, two specimens have been graded finer, both MS-65 BN, with one example of the Periods variety (Sheldon-4) receiving an MS-66 grade. Chain cents, when encountered at all, are most apt to be found in well-circulated grade, often corroded or otherwise ready to divulge some of the stresses they have endured during a basic physical inspection. Few collectors who begin with a goal of collecting the United States series can recall when a Chain cent was not a primary desideratum, and even after a collecting specialty has been whittled to cents, or early cents, or just the date 1793, a superb quality and well-pedigreed Chain cent ranks high on any connoisseur's want list. The present specimen, chosen by so many savvy collectors over the last 14 decades as a showcase coin, will surpass the needs of both the type collector and cent specialist in its immaculate preservation and immense eye appeal.

First offered in Edward Cogan's sale of the Colin Lightbody Collection, December 1866, Lot 536. Lightbody had purchased what became the Yale University specimen of the Brasher Doubloon from W. Elliot Woodward for $400 two years earlier. Next to the collection of Mortimer Livingston Mackenzie, Edward Cogan's sale of the Mackenzie Collection, the first plated American auction catalogue, June 1869, Lot 624. Six 1793 cents were included in that sale, all of which, including this piece, were pictured on the April 1869 Levick Plate in the American Journal of Numismatics. *L. Bayard Smith, to an unknown party, to Arthur L. Gray, to Ted and Carl Brandts of Celina Coin Company, to T. James Clarke. Clarke's cent collection was sold intact to R.E. "Ted" Naftzger in October, 1954. Portions were sold in Abe Kosoff's sale of the T. James Clarke Collection, April 1956, including this piece as Lot 4. Sold by Stack's to Dorothy Nelson, and sold as part of her collection in Stack's sale of the "TAD" Collection, February 1976, Lot 3. Ed Hipps to Steve Ivy's sale of November 1978, Lot 7 to Robert Bender. The most recent auction appearance was in Heritage's 1988 ANA Auction, August 1988, Lot 3. Anthony Terranova to Kevin Lipton, to Stack's, and now offered again after 15 years off the market.*

106 1793 S-3. Rarity-3-. Chain, AMERICA. Poor-1 (ANACS). The very definition of Basal State. Mottled dark brown and olive with heavy raised corrosion on both sides and little detail remaining. On the obverse, the outline of Liberty's profile is visible, with the unique curvature of the intersection of the neckline with the lowest hairlines identifying this piece as a Sheldon-3. On the reverse, the C of CENT and a few links of chain are visible, enough to make identification of this die a bit easier than the obverse. Almost certainly a ground find based upon the raised scale, but an identifiable one – an ideal coin for the type collector on a budget.

Important 1793 Sheldon-11a Wreath Cent

Last Publicly Auctioned in 1933

Condition Census #4

(2x photo)

107 1793 S-11a. Rarity- 4+. Wreath, Vine and Bars Edge. EF-45. An important Condition Census cent, a simply extraordinary specimen of this scarce variety and classic one year type. Medium olive-brown surfaces show not only shallow reflectivity but impressive amounts of natural lustre in the basined obverse fields, around Liberty's eye, in recessed areas of her tresses, and in protected areas of the reverse. A thin, nearly vertical planchet striation, descends from the field left of L of LIBERTY to the bead opposite the second lowest lock. The fields are pristine, free of marks of any consequence, and smooth. The strike, as befits an extraordinary cent, is impressive: veins appear distinct on the trefoil cotton leaves within the wreath, vertical die lines near Liberty's temple are plain to the naked eye, and the die lines from the rim to E in AMERICA are easily seen. The planchet is large at 27.5 mm, allowing for an even, round border around the obverse. Each bead is complete and neatly rounded. This coin served as the plate specimen in Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia of Early United States Large Cents 1793-1814*. The eye appeal is, without exaggeration, breathtaking. There will be no disagreement that this is a beautiful cent. An orange-tan shade present outside the beads in the northwest obverse reveals a trace of peripheral roughness that will matter to no one, a similar shade within STATES OF AMERICA reveals, under high magnification, only the shallowest inconsistency on the remarkably smooth surfaces, certainly not enough to call it roughness. A thin downward scratch under the left base of A in STATES, a nick between the left ribbon end and the fraction bar, and a tiny planchet flaw under L in LIBERTY are as serious a defect as this special coin has to offer. The Vine and Bars edge is well defined.

The Sheldon-11a is the scarcest of three subvarieties of a single die marriage which uses a Vine and Bars edge and two different Lettered Edge devices. The finest known example is Choice Mint State, and the second finest is likewise a lovely Mint State piece, now impounded in the ANS collection. The third best is in a long-held private collection, a coin which is likewise given an EF-45 grade in the Bland census. We have retained this piece's EF-45 grade as a matter of tradition, but we would be equally happy to give it a higher grade and have no doubt that the marketplace will extend a still higher grade based upon its lustre and eye appeal. The Noyes census likewise calls this piece the fourth best, tied with a piece permanently impounded in the Connecticut State Library.

This cent, last publicly auctioned in 1933, reappears after years off the market while it reposed in the holdings of the American Numismatic Society. The piece is now sold in connection with the recent recovery by the American Numismatic Society of the long-missed second finest known example, the MS-60 Sears-Clapp coin. We are pleased to have been invited to offer such a beautiful cent to a new generation of private collectors.

Released by the American Numismatic Society following an arrangement resulting in the recovery of the MS-60 Sears-Clapp coin. This piece was first offered in B. Max Mehl's 1929 price list of the Dr. George P. French Collection, Lot 12, for $275. Next offered in J.C. Morganthau and Company's sale of the Henry Sternberg Collection, April 1933, Lot 8. Thence from Dr. William H. Sheldon to Charles R. Matheuson to the Copley Coin Company in 1955; Dr. William H. Sheldon to the American Numismatic Society. Plated in Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of Early United States Large Cents 1793-1814.

108 **1794 S-22. Rarity-1. F-15,** sharpness of VF-25, rim bruise at IB in LIBERTY and three short, old scratches on Liberty's face. Choice milk chocolate brown with nice surfaces – would that all 1794 cents had color and surfaces like this one! A smaller rim nick than that mentioned is present at 9:00 on the obverse, two 1 mm scratches at base of pole noted, three pinprick digs in lower right obverse field. Late die state with full mounds on reverse and heavy clashing around head. If one can look past the minor flaws, a very attractive 1794 cent will be discovered.

109 1794 S-55. Rarity-2. F-12 (ANACS). Deep olive-brown with good eye appeal for the assigned grade. Some waxy buildup noted on the surfaces, tiny scattered pits under chin and at Y in LIBERTY, wax mostly masks fine granularity. Date and legends are full but for weakness at UNI, a few tiny rim bruises are not serious. A decent circulated example of this always popular date, one which has become harder to find in middle circulated grades.

110 **Two desirable circulated Liberty Cap cents:** ☆ 1794 S-58. Rarity-3. F-12, sharpness of VF-25, several light scratches in the obverse fields. Attractive near ebony with occasional pitting and good overall eye appeal ☆ 1795 S-75. Rarity-3. Lettered edge. G-6. Smooth, glossy, and appealing with lovely dark chocolate color. All legends and date bold, a bit of roughness near cap, a lovely worn example. (Total: 2 pieces)

Circulated Liberty Cap cents are scarce in the modern marketplace.

111 **1795 S-76b. Rarity-1. Fine-12.** Perhaps a trifle sharper, pit at center of Liberty's cap and some fine and inconsequential scattered pits elsewhere on obverse. Attractive light brown color, excellent eye appeal, reverse shows regular parallel striations oriented vertically. A lovely cent for the grade and a perfect type coin.

Very Sharp 1796 Liberty Cap Cent

112 **1796 S-84. Liberty Cap. Rarity-3. EF-45 (PCGS).** Pleasing chocolate brown and steel with pleasing visual appeal. A very sharp specimen of this scarce date, usually found in low grades or on very poor quality planchets. The present specimen is remarkably well detailed with all design elements bold. Several tiny digs are noted off the bridge of the nose, small dull nicks on Liberty's cheek and one on the chin, tiny nicks off chin in field, very minor rim bruise at O of OF, some buildup trapped in intricacies of reverse wreath makes no impact upon the eye appeal. These little flaws, taken as a whole, still leave a very positive impression. Date collectors often have far more problems locating an acceptable 1796 cent – either Liberty Cap or Draped Bust – than any of the three dates in the series which precede it.

113 **A trio of scarce to rare varieties of cents:** ☆ 1797 S-124. Rarity-5+. Good-4, sharpness of VG-7, moderate roughness on both sides. Tan and steel, no flaws beyond its granularity ☆ 1797 S-129. Rarity-5+. Good-4, a point sharper, vertical scuff through hair ribbon. Attractive chocolate brown and tan with full legends if a trifle weak in areas ☆ 1798 S-163. Rarity-4-. Good-6, sharpness of VG-10, fine scattered pits on obverse. Light brown obverse, dark brown reverse with tan highlights, light granularity but good detail on both sides. Cud below 17 of date. (Total: 3 pieces)

Superb 1797 Sheldon-135

From the Nichols Find

114 **1797 S-135. Rarity-3+. MS-62 BN (NGC).** Lustrous dark olive surfaces exhibit a hint of gold. Remarkably free of marks for the often badly kegmarked Nichols Find cents, with only tiny marks in Liberty's hair and behind her head which pre-existed striking, and still tinier pre-striking contact points on the reverse. Excellent eye appeal for the assigned grade, shallow patch of inborn roughness above N in ONE, tiny spots noted at foot of 1, top of 9, and at TE in STATES. Undoubtedly a survivor of the Nichols Find, a group of high-grade 1796 and 1797 cents dispersed in 1863 that had earlier been passed through the family of Senator Benjamin Goodhue of Massachusetts. An ideal type coin and a very nice cent.

Condition Census 1798 S-184

Lustrous AU

115 **1798 S-184. Rarity-2-. Second Hair Style. AU-55 (PCGS).** A superb, fully lustrous specimen and a new addition to the Condition Census for the variety. Frosty medium brown and steel, very

close to Mint State. The fields are pristine with few marks of any kind, minor dig noted under ribbon in left obverse field, some inborn planchet roughness behind Liberty's eye and likewise in the area of OF on the reverse, thin scratch between left ribbon end and first 0 of denominator. Well-defined double profile, an interesting aspect, noted by Breen in his *Encyclopedia of Early United States Large Cents* – "Clapp mentions one with a double profile." The present specimen is probably about fourth finest known of the variety; only one is known in Mint State. While the variety is frequently encountered and is present in most specialized collections, this piece represents an upgrade for all but a lucky few.

PCGS Population: 6; 1 finer (AU-58).

Superb 1799 Cent Rarity
VF-25 (PCGS)

(2x photo)

116 **1799 S-189. Rarity-2+. Perfect Date. VF-25 (PCGS).** Even deep steel brown with a bold strike for the date, with fully distinct date digits and only minor softness at OF. An extremely high quality example of this classic key date – the first key date identified in American numismatic history. Both obverse and reverse show an extensive scattering of very tiny contact marks, but none are individually serious and the rims appear unabused. An old horizontal scratch is noted under the chin in the right obverse field, two short scratches cross at the first 9, tiny spot shoehorned between second 9 and bust, thin scratch from rim through foot of T in LIBERTY. The overall visual appeal is very nice, although eye appeal is usually a secondary consideration for those who seek this date. Finding a specimen above Good is challenge enough for most.

This example, apparently a new discovery, ranks among the top 15 or so known specimens of the variety. PCGS has certified only one example above VF. Any specimen above Very Good is a significant offering and a very desirable coin. This example, with its excellent definition and uncorroded surfaces, is certain to be a centerpiece in the next cabinet it graces.

High-Grade 1800 S-203

117 **1800 S-203. Rarity-3-. AU-50 (NGC).** Choice chocolate brown with abundant lustre on the reverse, obverse a bit more sedate deep brown. Some very shallow roughness is noted on the obverse, mostly along the left periphery and within LIBERTY, reverse smooth and lovely but for a inconsequential area of roughness under the fraction. Obverse strike a bit blunt from die damage, as typical, few nicks in field off chin, nick at left base of Y in LIBERTY. Among the top dozen specimens of this variety in terms of overall quality. As a date, 1800 cents are a significant challenge in high grade. This example will improve most specialists' holdings and should see serious bidding activity.

118 A pair of appealing Draped Bust cents: ☆ 1802 S-236. Rarity-1. F-12, sharpness of VF-20, even microscopic granularity. Nice dark olive patina with good eye appeal. Late die state with reverse cud at ST and usual cracks ☆ 1807 S-276. Rarity-1. VF-25-, sharpness of VF-30, very fine surface roughness. Glossy medium brown with very nice visual appeal, trifling roughness in areas makes no significant impact, die alignment 50°. From Stack's sale of March, 2000, Lot 1200 with lot ticket. (Total: 2 pieces)

Lustrous 1813 Cent

119 **1813 S-292. Rarity-2. EF-40+,** sharpness of AU-55 or a bit better, some scattered raised corrosion mostly on the reverse. Full lustrous cartwheel on mottled chestnut and dark chocolate brown surfaces. A beautiful cent, sharp and appealing, with no marks of consequence, only three tiny digs above the date are apparent under scrutiny. The reverse does exhibit scattered raised inactive corrosion, manifesting as dark specks, which interrupt neither lustre nor design elements; the obverse shows only the most minor sort of low-level roughness. The overall appearance is that of a near Mint State coin. Cents of 1813 have long been accorded "semi-key" status among the early dates, and only three or four truly Mint State cents of this date are known. With those pieces in long-standing collections, including one impounded in the ANS, the importance of the present example to the high-grade date collector becomes clear.

120 **1820 Newcomb-13. Large Date. MS-65 BN (NGC).** A satiny, lustrous brown specimen with much mint color in the recessed areas. Wisps of pale rose and sky blue iridescence blend softly into the background. One of the varieties that was heavily represented in the Randall Hoard, hence its availability in Mint State grades. A pleasing representative example of the date and certified grade.

While reviewed in the literature perhaps more times than can be counted, the story of the Randall Hoard is worthy of reprinting here in a shortened format. Around 1868, just a few short years after Civil War hostilities ceased, a Georgia merchant found a keg of large cents, reportedly under the floor boards of a railway station. The cents found their way to Wm. H. Chapman & Co. of Norwich, NY, "Buyers & Sellers of Everything Cheap," as payment of a debt; Chapman acquired them at 90c on the dollar! Chapman's firm passed them out to customers, but many refused them thinking they were counterfeit. A local collector, John Swan Randall, bought the balance of the hoard from Chapman at the same 90c per hundred that Chapman originally paid. Randall then slowly dispersed a portion of the hoard to collectors and dealers of the time. Randall passed away on New Year's Day, 1878, and later that year, Edward Cogan, "Father of the Coin Trade" in America, sold Randall's collection (60th Sale, May 6-9, 1878), at which time about 1,600 cents remained.

Frosty Mint State 1822 Cent

121 **1822 N-4. Rarity-2. MS-65 BN (PCGS).** Impeccable cartwheel lustre on medium brown and steel surfaces faded from mint color, with some golden orange tones at the reverse periphery. An exceptionally beautiful specimen of this date and variety, with abundant eye appeal and pristine surfaces. Indeed, we are hard-pressed to mention an identifying mark, so we will settle for a thin vertical line of toning above C in CENT. Easily one of the top dozen specimens of the variety; while some may have more mint color remaining, few are as mark-free and attractive as the present coin. A superb quality cent.

PCGS Population : 1; none finer. This is the only MS-65 1822 cent certified by PCGS with any color designation.

122 A pair of die states of the 1831 Newcomb-12: ☆ Two point, one star cud. VG-10, sharpness of F-15, scattered light surface corrosion. Dark tan and ebony with good eye appeal ☆ Seven point, two star cud. G-6. Attractive medium brown with a dig at first A in AMERICA. A scarce die state with massive cud swallowing most of star 12 and 13, a coin with an exceptional pedigree. (Total: 2 pieces).

Both pieces purchased from Rod Burress, the second from Superior's Century Collection sale, February 1992, Lot 1183. Earlier From the collection of Roger Cohen. The lot ticket accompanies this lot.

123 **1837 N-11. Rarity-1. Beaded Hair Cords. MS-66 BN (NGC).** A lovely cent, aglow with lively lustre and pale rose highlights on satiny brown surfaces, and with traces of pale mint red in the protected areas. Nicely struck, with just a touch of weakness showing at the centers of certain stars. Doubling plain at IBERTY, reverse with die cracks and clash marks. An altogether attractive and visually pleasing Middle Date large cent for your bidding consideration.

NGC Census: 25; 1 finer (MS-67 BN). These numbers represent all the "BN" examples of the date certified by NGC, including those simply called 1837, as well as those broken down by Newcomb variety (for the record, no 1837 cents have been graded finer in *any color designation*). As for those coins actually designated as N-11, NGC has certified two examples at MS-66 BN, with none finer.

124 **1840 N-8. Rarity-1. MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Full salmon rose with lovely cartwheel lustre. Nicely struck and attractive with very few flyspecks, one spot in field under chin. Usual rim cuds around obverse periphery. A desirable example of this first full year of the type.

125 **1847 N-24. MS-65 BN (NGC).** Deep tan with underlying lustre and a trace of mint red at the devices. Heavy raised die lines in the obverse field make for easy identification of the present variety. Tied for finest graded example of the variety by NGC. A nice selection for a type collection.

NGC Census: 5; none finer within the color designation.

126 **1850 N-7. MS-65 BN (NGC).** Lustrous medium golden brown with rose highlights. A nice example of the date, and a coin that would be right at home in a large cent cabinet or a type collection. Tied for finest graded example of the variety by NGC, which should add considerably to the desirability of the present coin.

NGC Census: 6; none finer within the color designation.

127 **1850 N-15. MS-65 BN (NGC).** Medium to deep chocolate brown with chestnut highlights on the obverse and pale blue highlights on the reverse. A lustrous gem.

128 **1851 N-12. MS-66 BN (NGC).** Medium satiny brown surfaces show generous amounts of mint red on the obverse, the red a little more subdued on the reverse. Sharply struck in all areas of the de-

sign save for the centers of a few obverse stars. One of just three examples of the variety graded MS-66 BN by NGC, with none finer.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within the color designation.

NGC has certified literally hundreds of 1851 large cents in Mint State, many attributed to Newcomb numbers, and others just simply lumped together under the 1851 listings. Of those coins certified by NGC, only 22 examples of the date, *in any color designation,* have received a finer grade from NGC.

129 **1853 N-11. MS-65 RB (NGC).** Generous amounts of mint red share the frosty surfaces with warm medium brown highlights. Lustrous and appealing for the grade. Some peripheral striking weakness is noted. Among the finest examples of the variety certified by NGC. All in all, a pretty piece that should see strong bidder support.

130 **1855 N-4. Upright 5s. MS-65 BN (PCGS).** A medium brown specimen with rolling rose iridescence and an underlying nuance of mint red on satiny, lustrous surfaces. Sharply struck with just a few obverse stars weak at the central radials. An altogether pleasing specimen of a readily recognizable die pair.

131 **1856 N-8. Upright 5. Rarity-4. MS-65 RB (PCGS).** A pleasing blend of red, brown, and iridescent blue plays on satiny surfaces, with red the dominant factor in the equation. PCGS has graded just one example of the date in a finer grade at the "BN" designation; in fact, only two examples of the date have been graded finer in *any* color designation. A visually attractive specimen of a fairly scarce variety, a coin that should find a new home without much difficulty.

PCGS Population: 26; 1 finer within the grade designation (MS-66 BN finest).

SMALL CENTS

SELECTIONS FROM THE LARRY R. STEVE COLLECTION OF FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT VARIETIES

It is with great pleasure we present selections from the Larry R. Steve Collection of Flying Eagle and Indian cent varieties.

To collectors of Flying Eagle and Indian cents—and weren't we *all* Flying Eagle and Indian cent collectors at one time or another?—the name Larry Steve is a familiar byline. Author, scholar, collector, award-winning exhibitor, all are interchangeable titles where Larry is concerned, and his love of the Indian cent series has brought each of those titles into the forefront at one time or another. He is author of numerous articles in *Longacre's Ledger,* the club publication of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society (or "The Fly-In Club," which Larry cofounded); he also served as president of that popular club for some time, as well as publisher and editor of their journal! Larry's work has appeared in other venues as well. His scholarly findings have been incorporated into *The Cherrypickers' Guide* by Bill Fivaz and J.T. Stanton, where he is credited with many discoveries, and also in old friend Rick Snow's landmark book on the series, *Flying Eagle & Indian Cents,* and its later editions. Steve is also coauthor, along with Kevin Flynn, of *The F.IND.ERS Report-A Comprehensive Guide to Selected Rare Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Die Varieties.* Another source of information on varieties in the series is the *CONECA U.S. Master Doubled Die Listing* by Alan Herbert, John Wexler, Delma Romines, and J.T. Stanton, where the name Larry Steve is also a familiar fixture.

The following offering features the fruits of decades of diligent searching by one of the foremost specialists in his chosen discipline, the small cents of the Flying Eagle and Indian types. Some important highlights of the sale include what is perhaps the finest and most complete set of 1857 Flying Eagle cent varieties (13 of 19 known varieties are represented!), including *all three* of the desirable and popular clashed die issues—the quarter dollar, half dollar, and double eagle rarities. Both 1858/7 overdate Flying Eagle cent varieties are featured, including an early die state specimen of Snow-1 in choice Mint State-64 grade. All six 1859 varieties are represented, and 14 of the 20 known 1864-L varieties are represented, along with two 1864-L pieces that may be *new* varieties.

From major varieties in high grade down to more commonplace (but no less exciting) varieties, the Larry Steve Collection has something for virtually every collecting taste. As a recent issue of *Longacre's Ledger* noted regarding the Larry Steve Collection, "The collecting of Indian cent varieties is still in its early stages. Only a few collectors have been able to complete variety sets of *any* date. The opportunity to find these varieties listed in just one sale is one that has not been available to collectors before." With that in mind, we expect we'll see a "who's who" of Flying Eagle and Indian cent specialists present on the auction floor for what will no doubt prove to be a memorable event, so be prepared to do friendly battle with a plenitude of familiar faces when these special small cents cross the auction block.

The coins in the present offering are attributed, wherever possible, to Snow (1992, 1998, 2001), FND (1995), Fivaz-Stanton (2000), and CONECA (Combined Organization of Numismatic Error Collectors of America) reference numbers, as taken from the aforementioned reference sources, with occasional reference to Breen and his *Encyclopedia* (1988); the rarity ratings are from the Steve-Flynn reference, and are generally higher for Mint State coins than for the same variety in circulated grades. We have listed rarity ratings appropriate to the grade of the coin as offered. The "Fly-In Club" has its own website, *www.flyinclub.org*, an interesting place to visit on the "world wide web," and a great source of knowledge and kinship for Flying Eagle and Indian cent collectors. The cataloguer (FVV) extends his gracious thanks to his old friends, Rick Snow and Larry Steve, for use of much information that is as yet unpublished—friends sharing knowledge, the way it should be in numismatics!

Gem Uncirculated 1857 Flying Eagle Cent
Repunched Date Variety
The Snow Reference Plate Coin

(2x photo)

132 **1857 Flying Eagle. Obverse of 1856. Repunched Date. Snow-1; FND-008; FS1-001. Rarity-6. MS-65 (PCGS).** A satiny golden gem with strong lustre and equally impressive eye appeal. Repunching is plainly evident at the date, especially so at the 8 and 5. The only acknowledged variety from within the group of eight known "Obverse of 1856" dies; the others are without special die qualities such as repunching (as here) or doubling. Probably among the first of the 1857 Flying Eagle circulation strike issues (see below). Regarding this variety, Snow wrote in his 2001 update that "These are quite scarce and in high demand," later noting "Probably no more than 100 known." Snow goes on to cite two MS-66 specimens graded by PCGS as the finest examples known to him. With that in mind (and the fact that only 11 examples of the date have been graded finer by PCGS *without* benefit of variety attribution), the present coin could well be a Condition Census example of Snow-1. In fact, this beauty was the plate coin in the Snow reference, and again in the Steve-Flynn reference. It almost seems the present coin can do no wrong; it is beautiful and highly photogenic, the strike is strong, and the variety is unmistakable. A grand way to begin this world-class Flying Eagle and Indian cent offering.

Obverse 1: AM are slightly separated, thin dentils above AMERI.

Reverse C: Right leaf near T of CENT lower than usual.

The eight known dies from the obverse style of 1856 exhibit an early style of lettering; most notably the O in OF is "boxy" and squared, as it is on genuine 1856 Flying Eagle cents. Later die styles of 1857-58 have a distinctly rounded O in OF. In his *A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents,* author Q. David Bowers (1996) noted the following about this obverse style: "1857 with obverse letters in the style of 1856. Snow-1 and 2, Fivaz-Stanton 1-001, FND-008 (for obverse with repunched date). Discovered by ANACS; earlier (1921) unknowingly reported by Commodore W.C. Eaton. It is believed that these were made very early in 1857 and were among the first 1857 Flying Eagle cents struck."

Choice Uncirculated 1857 Flying Eagle Cent
Obverse of 1856

133 **1857 Flying Eagle. Obverse of 1856. Snow-2d. Rarity-5. MS-64 (PCGS).** Satiny rose-gold surfaces display plenty of lustre and a generous dose of eye appeal. A few tiny flecks can be seen under magnification, but the overall quality is unimpeded by them. Not an extremely rare variety, but highly coveted nonetheless for its die of 1856 style; certainly the outstanding physical and aesthetic qualities of the present coin will also garner a great deal of appreciation and attention. Pleasing in all respects.

Obverse: Type of 56-5. Early state, no die cracks seen.

Reverse G.

There are six 1857 Flying Eagle obverse dies known of the style of 1856, including Snow-1, offered just previous to the present lot, and five others called Snow-2a, b, c, d, and e. In the most recent (2001) edition of his reference, Rick Snow noted the following about the present variety, Snow-2d, and its counterparts: "Five obverse dies are known from the 'Obverse of 1856' hub in addition to the Snow-1. These are usually only sought after for the distinctive hub style and not the individual dies, which is why they are all listed as S-2. The die variations are listed here to tally the dies only. These as a group are slightly scarce. These are not found in as high a quality as the Snow-1. The finest known is a MS-65 graded by NGC."

Choice Mint State 1857 Flying Eagle 1¢
Doubled Die Obverse

134 **1857 Flying Eagle. Doubled Die Obverse. Snow-3; FND-004; FS1-002; 8-O-I. Rarity-5. MS-64 (PCGS).** Bright gold with violet and chestnut iridescence on the obverse, and with full brilliance on the reverse. Highly lustrous and nicely struck. Boldly doubled obverse details plainest at the peripheral legend and the eagle's head, eye, and breast feather; additionally, the eagle sports a "broken" wing tip (from the same die that produced the famous 1858/7 overdate). As author Rick Snow noted in the 2001 edition of his reference: "This variety is very scarce and only a few Mint State examples have been located." Our hunch is that the present coin is among the finest known examples of the variety! A lovely coin and a scarce variety combine here in a winning combination.

Obverse 3: Strong clockwise doubling on the legends, eagle's eye, beak, and neck feathers, die file marks through second T of STATES, above OF, and at the upper right serif of M in AMERICA.

Reverse H: Dentils on lower half are thinner, small die crack from lowest tip of right ribbon to dentil at right.

The present variety, Snow-3, was originally listed as Snow-4a in the 1992 first edition of the Snow reference. Snow-3 in that edition was a variety first reported by Walter Breen which was later determined to be nonexistent and delisted from future editions of Snow. The 1995 first edition of *The F.IND.ERS Report* by Larry Steve and Kevin Flynn attributed this variety as Snow-4b, which was also correct at the time. Now, Snow-4a is called Snow-3, taking the numerical place of the delisted Breen variety, while the former Snow-4b is now simply Snow-4.

Choice Uncirculated 1857 Flying Eagle Cent
Another Doubled Die Obverse Variety

135 **1857 Flying Eagle. Doubled Die Obverse. Snow 4; 2-O-I. Rarity-5. MS-64 (PCGS).** Intense cartwheel lustre and warm golden toning grace the satiny surfaces of this impressive Flying Eagle cent. Doubling plainest at eagle's head and neck, and at places in the legend, notably at RICA. One of the varieties (formerly S-4b in the 1992 edition of the Snow reference) with missing wing tip design; here it has been strengthened by hand in the die before striking. Another lovely coin that must be in or very near the Condition Census for the variety, a pleasing and choice Mint State Flying Eagle cent that will no doubt entice Flying Eagle collectors and variety specialists alike.

Obverse 4: Strong clockwise doubling seen at eagle's head and neck area, also at NIT and ICA in the legend. Die State A, no cud yet above STATE, front of eagle's breast polished into field.

Reverse I: Left leaf well above base of C in CENT, right leaf below base of T in that word. Faint die crack from tip of right ribbon extends above or touches five dentils to the right.

Choice Uncirculated 1857 Flying Eagle 1¢
A Further Doubled Die Obverse Variety

136 **1857 Flying Eagle. Doubled Die Obverse. Snow-5. FND-006; Rarity-6. MS-64 (PCGS).** Satiny deep golden surfaces with bursts of brighter golden iridescence in the protected areas. Highly lustrous and visually appealing, sharply struck as well. Modest doubling seen at the top of UNITE and the front of the eagle's beak. Some natural planchet flaws on the reverse, as struck, may account for the assigned grade. This variety is called "quite scarce" by Snow in the latest edition of his reference. The present piece is definitely choice for the grade, and will command a good deal of bidding activity as a result. A grand opportunity to acquire one of Larry Steve's coins for your own Flying Eagle cent cabinet.

Obverse 5: Minor doubling at tops of UNITE and the front of the eagle's beak; Class II, Distorted Hub Doubling.

Reverse J.

Rare 1857 Flying Eagle Cent Variety
Obverse Clashed With Liberty $20 Die
The Finest Known of the Variety
The Snow, Steve-Flynn, and Bowers Plate Coin

(2x photo)

137 **1857 Flying Eagle. Obverse die clashed with Liberty $20 die. Snow-7; FND-001; FS1-004. Rarity-6. AU-58 (NGC).** Deep gold with olive highlights and strong underlying lustre. The present variety is a prized rarity in *all* grades, and one of the highlights of the Larry Steve Collection as well. NGC has certified just *three* examples of the variety, with the present coin far and away the finest of those three! Specialists in the series have been "beating the bushes" for this variety since its discovery, but with very little success; fewer than 50 examples have turned up in all grades, most of them in lower circulated condition. (No doubt the specialists are also looking for double eagles with Flying Eagle cent clash marks). Worth noting is the fact that this variety is currently unknown in Mint State. In fact, according to Rick Snow's 2001 update, "The finest known is an AU-58 in the collection of Larry Steve!" The bold reversed outline of Miss Liberty (from Longacre's double eagle die) is clearly seen on the obverse of the host coin, her profile jutting into AMERICA, and with additional portions of her outline seen at the eagle's head and feet and at the bottoms of the date numerals; that clash mark resembles a die crack (what could be the base of an errant 1 can be seen between the existing 1 and 8 as well). One of three 1857 Flying Eagle cent varieties that show clash marks from dies of other denominations (the obverse die of a Liberty Seated half dollar and the reverse die of a Liberty Seated quarter are the other two "culprits"). This photogenic Flying Eagle has been illustrated in the Snow reference, the Steve-Flynn reference, and in Q. David Bowers' *Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide*. Alas, only one successful bidder can add the present coin to his or her collection and thus become the next person to assume "custodial rights" to this rarity; we're sure you'll bid accordingly!

Obverse 7: Clash marks from the obverse die of a Liberty $20 visible on the obverse of the Flying Eagle cent host coin.

Reverse L: Thin dentils from 2:00 to 6:00.

Each of the lots from 137 through 139 will be sold on a provisional basis. After Lot 139 is sold provisionally, the total for lots 137 through 139 will be computed, 5% will be added to the total, and this will constitute the opening bid for Lot 140. If the opening bid is met or exceeded, the provisional awards for lots 137 through 139 will be canceled. If it is not met or exceeded, then the lots will be sold at the provisional award prices.

Gem Mint State 1857 Flying Eagle 1¢ Variety
Reverse Clashed With Quarter Dollar Die
Finest Certified by NGC
The Steve-Flynn and Bowers Plate Coin

(2x photo)

138 **1857 Flying Eagle. Reverse die clashed with Liberty Seated quarter die. Snow-8. FND-002; FS1-005. Rarity-7. MS-65 (NGC).** Lustrous deep golden brown surfaces. An impressive gem Mint State example of an elusive variety, one that becomes a major rarity at this level (Rarity-7 in Uncirculated; only 4 to 12 known). In fact, the present coin is the finest example of the variety certified by NGC, with no peers and none better! The reversed outline of the eagle from a Liberty Seated quarter die is seen among the reverse wreath details of the cent die. As with the variety clashed with the obverse of a Liberty double eagle, fewer than 50 examples of the present clashed variety are known. The present coin was the plate coin in both the Steve-Flynn reference and the Bowers *Guide*. The Larry Steve Collection has already proven itself deep in rare die varieties, and we are only at the beginning of the offering. Suffice it to say, the present coin represents another *opportunity* to acquire a major rarity accompanied by an impeccable pedigree that is known throughout the Flying Eagle and Indian cent community. We can't wait to see the final outcome when this lot crosses the auction block!

NGC Census: 1; none finer.

Obverse 8: Left base of 1 in date over left half of dentil.

Reverse M: Clash marks from reverse die of Liberty Seated quarter seen among wreath details of the Flying Eagle host coin.

Each of the lots from 137 through 139 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 137.

Gem Mint State 1857 Flying Eagle Cent
Obverse Clashed With Half Dollar Die
The Steve-Flynn and Bowers Plate Coin

(2x photo)

139 **1857 Flying Eagle. Obverse die clashed with Liberty Seated half dollar die. Snow-9; FND-003; FS1-003. Rarity-7. MS-65 (NGC).** Intense cartwheel lustre makes a bold and lively statement on the satiny deep golden surfaces of this beauty. An intensely satisfying gem Mint State Flying Eagle cent in all respects—the strike is sharp, the lustre won't quit, and the eye appeal is near the zenith for the design type. Most of the known examples of this variety are circulated coins; these are more readily cherrypicked owing to the noticeable raised line resembling a die crack that runs through ERICA (the other clashed die varieties of the date are more subtle in appearance and the details on those varieties probably faded rapidly after some time in circulation). Another of Larry Steve's coins that was used for photographic plate purposes in numismatic references; the present piece is pictured in the Steve-Flynn and the Bowers references. A pleasing coin that is among the finest known examples of the variety certified by NGC, and one that will definitely draw its own fair share of bidding activity when it is presented to our appreciative audience.

NGC Census: 8; 2 finer (MS-66).

Obverse 9: Clash marks from the die of a Liberty Seated quarter on the obverse of the host coin.

Reverse O: Early die state, no crack from rim to wreath at 2:30.

Each of the lots from 137 through 139 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 137.

Trio of Clashed Die Cents
As Described in Lots 137-139

140 **Clashed die cent trio,** as individually described in lots 137 through 139 above. At this point in the sale, the provisional awards for lots 137 and 139 will be totaled, 5% will be added, and that will constitute the opening bid for the current lot, Lot 140. If this bid is met or exceeded, the provisional awards will be cancelled and the coins will be owned by the successful bidder on the present lot. (Total: 3 pieces)

1857 Flying Eagle Cent Variety
Triple-Punched Date Numerals
The Snow and Steve-Flynn Plate Coin

141 **1857 Flying Eagle. Triple-punched date numerals. Snow-10; FND-007; FS1-003.7; 6-O-1. Rarity-6. MS-61 (ANACS).** Pale gold and rose highlights glow warmly on lustrous, somewhat prooflike surfaces. A thoroughly attractive specimen for the assigned grade, and a photogenic coin; it was chosen to represent the variety in both the Snow and Steve-Flynn references. Repunching at the date numerals is plainest at the bases of the 5 and 7, less so at the 1 and 8. File marks are noted in the dentils below 85; some feel they may be the top of an errant 7. A touch of die doubling is also seen on this popular variety, with evidence of such plainest at the eagle's eye and the very tops of UNIT. In his reference, Snow called this variety "very scarce with very few reported." This variety was first discovered by Chris Pilliod, a familiar name to collectors across the country. Definitely desirable to collectors of Flying Eagle and Indian cents, as well as to those who simply appreciate the foibles of the Mint's early years.

Obverse 10: Repunching seen at the date numerals, slight die doubling at eagle's eye and UNIT.

Reverse P: Die State A, no cracks.

Rare 1857 Flying Eagle Cent Variety
Choice Mint State
Repunched 857

142 **1857 Flying Eagle. Repunched 857. Snow-11; FND-005; FS1-001.5. Rarity-7. MS-63 (PCGS).** A satiny, lustrous golden brown coin with a great deal of eye appeal for the grade, and with rich, deep golden iridescence blooming here and there. The bottoms of the date numerals are broadly repunched; the first date was punched very low, nearly touching the dentils, and then repunched in a higher position. A neat variety, one that is found above VF more often than not, as the traces of the earlier numerals probably fade after a lengthy stay in circulation, and are not generally visible on coins in Fine or lesser grades. In choice Mint State, as offered here, the variety rates a Rarity-7 designation!

Obverse 11: Broad, obvious repunching seen at bottoms of 857; earliest die state shows minor repunching of 1 as well.

Reverse Q: "A sloping die defect is visible in the denticles from 1:00 (shallower) to 2:00 (stronger)."

Choice Uncirculated 1857 Flying Eagle 1¢
Another Doubled Die Obverse Variety

143 **1857 Flying Eagle. Doubled Die Obverse. Snow-14; 10-O-I. Rarity-6. MS-64 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous golden surfaces show a touch of pale rose iridescence. Choice overall despite some tiny flecks scattered here and there on both sides. A variety first brought to light by Rick Snow. Light doubling noted at ED STA and again at the final A in AMERICA. An interesting "patch" of sorts can be seen at the E and D in UNITED, and at the first S in STATES. Either those letters were severely repunched in the die (which is quite obvious at the S), or small chips have fallen from the die in all those places—perhaps a combination of both scenarios occurred. Regardless, it makes for an interesting variety, which should translate into a quick but earnest bidding bout when this specimen crosses the auction block.

Obverse 14: Die State B, with the defects and doubling noted above; also with die lines at the dentils above RI in AMERICA, and a die line from the dentils to the final A in that word.

Reverse T: "Late die stage, raised portion of the rim from 6:00 to 10:00."

Choice Mint State 1857 Flying Eagle Cent
Another Doubled Die Obverse Variety

144 **1857 Flying Eagle. Doubled Die Obverse. Snow-15; FS1-002.3; 3-O-I. Rarity-6. MS-63 (NGC).** Deep and rich shades of gold play on satiny, lustrous surfaces. Light doubling noted at the peripheral legend, especially so at UNI and ICA, and additionally at the eagle's eye, mouth, and neck feathers. A pleasing example of one of the "broken wing tip" varieties, a rarity that can still be located with some degree of patience. Fortunately the present coin from Larry Steve's collection will greatly diminish the "degree of patience" needed to locate a specimen for one lucky Flying Eagle specialist!

Obverse 15: Doubling as noted above.

Reverse U: "Thin denticles from 2:00 to 6:00."

Attractive 1857 Flying Eagle 1¢
Choice MS-64
Misplaced Digits with Die Cud Variety

145 **1857 Flying Eagle. Misplaced Digits with Die Cud. Snow-16. Rarity-7. MS-64 (NGC).** A bright and lustrous golden brown specimen with iridescent rose highlights on satiny surfaces, and with some prooflike reflectivity in the protected areas. A fairly new and rare variety; few specimens are currently known in any grade. The obverse displays two very interesting features. A retained cud die break at the center, resembling a tiny boomerang, is prominently displayed on the eagle's wing. The presence of the cud makes for an interesting variety in its own right (and coins bearing the cud were, indeed, considered a separate variety for some time before a specimen was carefully re-examined; see note below). Upon careful examination of the present high-grade specimen, lo and behold, it was found that there were *date numerals* scattered in the eagle's neck feathers as well; that salient feature was first pointed out by the coin's owner, Larry Steve! We suspect the present coin may be the *finest known* example of the variety, though it may well be that others will be discovered after this sale. We are pleased to present a truly lovely Flying Eagle cent, a *double* variety if you will, and a coin with a tale to tell about mid 19th-century minting technology.

Obverse: 16: as described above, with date numerals in neck and retained die cud.

Reverse: V: no salient marks of note.

This variety was not listed in Snow's reference in 1992, nor was it listed in the 1998 update of the reference. Now listed as Snow-16 in *The Flying Eagle & Indian Cent Attribution Guide* (2001; Second Edition; Volume I, 1856-1858), author Snow notes: "This variety was initially listed because of the die cud in the center of the coin. Later, in the 1998 Fly-In Club attribution guide, this variety was delisted as cuds on their own were chosen not to be listed as die varieties. Later, the misplaced digits were discovered by Larry Steve. Some specialists are unsure if there are actually digits in the feathers because the digits are well hidden amongst the feathers. The overlays presented should dispel the critics." Snow then presents photographic evidence using overlays of the date numerals placed against the neck feathers of the eagle. The evidence is overwhelmingly convincing (at least to this writer) that there *are* date numerals misplaced in the eagle's neck feathers.

Noteworthy 1858/7 Flying Eagle 1¢ Rarity
Choice Mint State-64
Early Die State

146 **1858/7 Overdate. Large Letters. High Leaves. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-006. Rarity-7. MS-64 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous golden surfaces show varying degrees of rich golden toning highlights. Somewhat prooflike in appearance, especially so on the obverse. An attractive coin, nicely struck at the centers, with a touch of peripheral weakness at the eagle's tail and at a few places in the reverse wreath, as typical for the issue. From the very rare early state of the dies, with the remnants of the underlying 7 plainly visible to the unaided eye, as are the remnants of the numeral 1 in the field above the date (the diagnostic "belly button" that is visible on all genuine specimens of this rarity regardless of grade; credit for determining the true identity of the "belly button," once thought to be just a die chip, goes to Chris Pilliod). The "broken" wing tip diagnostic is also plainly seen; there is no mistaking this coin for anything *but* an overdate! PCGS has certified fewer than two dozen examples of the overdate in MS-64, with only four specimens graded finer; no doubt some of those certified numbers can be correctly discounted as resubmissions, and it is unknown how many coins of that listing are of the *early die state* seen here. Confusing population numbers aside, current bidders are offered a rare and exciting overdate variety that is always in great demand. As Snow noted in his reference, "This is typically collected as part of the basic set and is under tremendous collector demand." Hold your bidding paddle high and your resolve steady and the present rarity may just go home with you!

PCGS Population: 23; 4 finer (MS-65).

Obverse 1: Underlying 7 seen as a point at the upper right side of the existing 8 in the date, remnants of a 1 in the field above the date; these later fade as the dies are used. Die State A: Eagle's wing tip barely connected. On the *High Leaves* reverse, the lowest inner leaf near the C of CENT is above the bottom of the C.

Reverse: T1-B. Die State A: No die cracks or striations.

Choice Uncirculated 1858 Flying Eagle 1¢
Small Letters
Repunched 185, Doubled Die Reverse

147 **1858 Small Letters. Repunched 185. Low Leaves. Snow-2; 2-R-III. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 (NGC).** A lively golden beauty with strong lustre, splashes of deeper gold iridescence, and considerable prooflike appeal. Tops of first three date numerals repunched, here plainest at the tops of the 1 and 8; the top of the underlying 8 is broken, appearing as "horns" above the dominant 8. Minor doubling is noted on the reverse at the E of ONE. A very scarce variety, probably on the order of Rarity-6 in Mint State, though that is just a guess on the writer's (FVV) part. Regardless of the rarity factor of this particular variety, the coin itself is certainly fine enough, both physically and aesthetically, to demand a serious spate of bidding activity.

Obverse 4: "Strong repunching on first three digits, strongest on 1. Top of repunched 8 is broken."

Reverse T2-C: "A T2 reverse with the denomination strengthened using a T2 denomination punch. Minor doubling visible on the E in ONE."

148 **1858 Small Letters. Doubled Die Reverse. Low Leaves. Snow-3a; FND-001; 1-R-III. Rarity-unassigned. MS-63 (ANACS).** Cascading rose iridescence on lustrous and satiny golden surfaces. Sharply struck in all places, a coin with even the smallest reverse leaf and wreath details plain and bold. Another variety whose discovery is attributed to our consignor, Larry Steve. Double reverse details plainest at E in ONE. All the diagnostics of this variety are present and accounted for, including obverse die cracks at the eagle's wing tip and at its tail; both of those cracks are connected to the rim. On the reverse, a small raised lump is seen on the N in ONE, probably the end result of die rust; heavy rim cuds are present from 11:00 to 6:00 as well. The present coin is definitely a choice Flying Eagle cent in all respects, and just as worthy of strong bidder support.

Obverse 5: Die cracks at tail and wing tip, both connected to the dentils.

Reverse T2-D: Die doubling at E of ONE; raised lump on N in that word; heavy rim cuds from 11:00 to 6:00. Snow's comments: "This is a Type 3 reverse reworked with a Type 1 denomination punch. The finest known is a MS-65 by PCGS."

Choice Mint State 1858 Flying Eagle Cent
Small Letters

149 **1858 Small Letters. Broken U in legend. High Leaves. Snow-unlisted. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 (PCGS).** Bright, lustrous pale gold with rose and sky blue iridescence in the fields. Some faint reverse flecks can be seen under low magnification, but their presence is far from unsettling to the viewer. Right upright of U in UNITED thin and attenuated, serif atop upright broken and without left side. D in UNITED and first and last S in STATES obviously repunched. A lovely choice Uncirculated Flying Eagle cent in all regards, not to mention a new variety that will no doubt set die variety specialists and Flying Eagle cent enthusiasts afire with auction fever.

Obverse: As described above.

Reverse: Raised die line up from dentils to the right underside of the left ribbon end, both ribbons "rest" on the dentils below.

Choice Mint State 1858/7 Flying Eagle Cent
Large Letters
Doubled Die Obverse

150 **1858/7 Overdate. Large Letters. Doubled Die Obverse. High Leaves. Snow-7; FS1-006.1; 7-O-II. Rarity-7. MS-62 (NGC).** Medium golden brown with strong underlying lustre on satiny surfaces. Nicely struck for the type, the present coin being strong and bold in nearly every area of the design. A double treat—this coin is one of the overdate varieties of the year (though not *the* overdate variety, that being Snow-1), as well as a doubled die variety. Doubling noted at the tops of UNITED and the eagle's eye, with portions of a previous 1 seen in the field to the left of the existing 1, and the upper right corner of the 7 from the 1857-dated die seen to the right of the existing 8. As late as 2001, Rick Snow had the following to say about this rare variety: "This overdate was discovered by Mark McWherter (see note below). It made front page news in *Numismatic News* on September 12, 1995. Since then only a handful have shown up. Only 11 examples are presently known. The finest is a MS-64 example. Only three Mint State examples presently known." With the diligent searching that Flying Eagle and Indian cent specialists are deploying on bourse floors across America these days, it is reasonable to assume that a few more examples, in various grades, have shown up since 2001, but probably not many. Tired of combing bourse floors hoping for that "big score?" Bid heartily for the present coin and you may never need to put a glass to another 1858 Flying Eagle cent (we are just teasing, of course, for a true collector's searching never ends!).

Obverse 2: Doubling at UNITED, traces of overdate details at 1 and 8 of date.

Reverse T1-E: High leaves style.

Interestingly enough, the discoverer of the present variety, Mark McWherter, was a student of this writer (FVV) at the 2002 *A.N.A Summer Seminar* in Colorado Springs, where I was fortunate enough to be a co-instructor along with David Lange, who serves as historian for NGC (we'll both be "back at school" in 2003!). Our class was a week-long investigation into the pleasures and intricacies of type coins, with collecting and enjoying type coins the primary thrust of the course. Mark McWherter, who is active in the A.N.A. as a District Delegate (among other tasks), was an enthusiastic student (as was *everyone* in the class), and brought his type set to "show and tell" one afternoon—and a nice type set it is!

151 **1858 Large Letters. Repunched Date. Low Leaves. Snow-9. Rarity-unassigned. MS-63 (ANACS).** Satiny bright golden surfaces display plenty of engaging lustre and nuances of pale pastel iridescence; nicely struck as well. Light repunching is noted at the tops of the date numerals, here plainest at the tops of both 8s. A moderately scarce variety first brought to the attention of Flying Eagle cent specialists by Larry Steve. An attractive example, overall, of the date, grade, and variety.

Obverse 10: Light repunching at the tops of the date numerals, which no doubt rapidly faded from the die with use.

Reverse T2-G: "Both lower ribbons are firmly connected to the denticles," according to Snow; such is not the case for the present coin. On the *Low Leaves* reverse, the lowest inner leaf near the C of CENT is below the bottom of the C.

Choice Mint State 1858 Flying Eagle Cent
Large Letters, High Leaves

152 **1858 Large Letters. High Leaves. Snow-unlisted; Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 (PCGS).** A satiny choice Mint State cent, bright and lustrous honey gold with bursts of yellow and red iridescence. Not a special variety, coming from fairly innocuous dies as it does, but a lovely coin that was no doubt purchased simply for its eye appeal; even specialists fall victim on occasion to the sheer delight of a coin's appearance. A truly nice coin overall.

Popular 1858 Pattern Indian Cent
Judd-208, Pollock-259

153 **1858 pattern Indian cent. Judd-208; Pollock-259; Snow-PT28; Breen-1940. Rarity-4. Proof-63 (PCGS).** Cupro-nickel. Plain edge. Broad Bust. Five-leaf clusters. Centered date. Doubled Die Obverse (Snow notes: "A minor doubled die with doubling visible on the ERTY in LIBERTY and RICA in AMERICA"). Bright and lustrous golden brown with satiny, reflective fields and lightly textured design motifs. Some faint flecks can be seen under low magnification. One of the most popular of all patterns, and an issue that is actively collected by Indian cent enthusiasts (which certainly creates plenty of demand for the date) and pattern specialists alike.

By 1858, collector interest in the products offered by the Mint was expanding to the point where patterns and regular issue small cents (at that time still a novelty to the general public) were actually offered in 12-piece sets. A total of 12 die combinations were available for the 1858 small cent issues, struck from a combination of three obverse die styles—Flying Eagle and Indian types—and four reverse styles—oak wreath, agricultural or "cereal" wreath, laurel wreath, and oak wreath with ornamental shield types. The sets contained 11 patterns and an example of the regular-issue Small Letters Flying Eagle cent of the date. According to Snow, "It seems that initially about 50 sets were put together and sold or traded." He later comments "The 12 piece pattern cent collection was struck in additional quantities to satisfy demand. Perhaps 25 to 50 [sets] were restruck, with a total of 100 sets in all." All the "demand" was caused by James Ross Snowden, Mint Director, who was responsible for the Mint's Washington Cabinet. Snowden is well-known today for his penchant to strike up numismatic "dainties" for collectors and specialists of the era, usually in trade for an item that would fit the Mint's collection. In fact, many collectors of the era probably obtained 1856 Flying Eagle cents in this manner.

GROUP OF 1859 VARIETIES

The following group contains a high-quality example of *all* the Snow varieties of 1859, as well as one of the popular Indian cent patterns of the date.

Mint State 1859 Indian Cent
Only Date of the Design Type
Repunched Date Variety

154 **1859 Repunched Date. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-006.2. Rarity-8. MS-62 (NGC).** Lustrous rose-gold with golden brightness in the recessed areas. All date digits dramatically repunched, and all details plainly visible under low magnification. A rare variety that was first brought to light by Walter Breen. The Steve-Flynn reference (1995) calls this date *Rarity-8* in Mint State, which speaks volumes for the desirability of the variety; the authors also noted that the variety was "Reported in Breen's *Encyclopedia* (1988) with only four to six known; since then, a total of just 15 pieces have been identified. This variety has been much sought after and remains elusive." Probably a few more examples have come to light since 1995, but not an awful lot of them. The latest population estimate from Larry Steve notes "To date approximately only 30 pieces are known to exist *in all grades*." The present coin ranks among the finest known examples of the variety; that and its pedigree are certainly reason enough to cause a bidding stir when it makes its debut on the auction block.

Accompanied by an Eagle Eye Photo Seal certificate.

Obverse 3: Dramatic repunching on all date numerals.

Reverse: C.

The 1859 Indian cent is essentially a one-year-only design type. While the Indian portrait was continued through to 1909 with only minor changes along the way, the reverse laurel wreath of the 1859 Indian cent was replaced in 1860 by an oak and olive wreath with a small federal shield at the top of the wreath, and with a bundle of arrows at the bottom; that design type remained in use until the demise of the Indian cent design type in 1909.

Gem Uncirculated 1859 Indian Cent
Repunched 185 Variety

(2x photo)

155 **1859 Repunched 185. Snow-2; FND-002; FS1-006.3. Rarity-6. MS-65 (PCGS).** An intensely lustrous gem of impressive physical and aesthetic quality. Bright golden brown with rose iridescence that adds considerably to the overall beauty of the coin. This date is always in demand in gem condition; the added appeal of an elusive variety makes for an even more desirable coin. From a moderately early die state, with strong repunching noted at the 1; this later fades almost to the point of invisibility. The PCGS holder is marked "Larry Steve Coll.," an added attraction for those interested in pedigree information.

Obverse 4: Repunching on the 185 in the date, usually noticed most plainly at the 85; the early state offered here shows repunching on the 1 as well.

Reverse D: Internal die crack within wreath runs through the leaves from 3:00 to 5:30 or so, then to the rim below.

Rare 1859 Repunched Date Cent Variety

156 **1859 Repunched Date. Snow-3; FND-003. Rarity-7. MS-63 (NGC).** Highly lustrous and fully brilliant with some warm rose toning highlights. The rare variety with the base of the 1 boldly repunched at the bottom, and with lighter repunching on the other three date numerals. As Rick Snow noted, "This is another example of the date being punched in slightly tilted, then corrected." A pleasing example of an elusive variety, here in its earliest die state with the flag of the underlying 1 showing at the left of the dominant 1; this later fades from the die. Struck on a flawed planchet, with depressions at the upper corner of the E in UNITED, at the second T of STATES, and at the bases of the F in OF, and the first A in AMERICA. The present coin is among the finest known examples of this rarity (especially so in its earliest die state, as offered here). Snow mentions a MS-65 PCGS specimen as the "finest known" of the variety; the present coin is not far behind with regards to quality and aesthetic appeal.

Obverse 5: Repunching as noted above.

Reverse E: Late die state, crack from rim at 5:30 upward to leaves, then branching off to the left across the ribbon knot, and to the right farther into the leaves.

157 **1859 Repunched 9. Snow-4. FND-004. Rarity-unassigned. EF-40 (ANACS).** Medium golden brown. Light repunching on 9. A fairly scarce variety that must be found in its early state or the repunching will not show; it is slight but present on the coin offered here. Numeral 5 light in die, perhaps a result of grease in the numeral at time of striking. Obverse die crack from rim to OF, and a planchet lamination at the rim above the second S in STATES. Few circulation marks of any note are seen, making for a choice coin for the grade overall.

158 **1859 Repunched 9. Snow-5; FND-005. Rarity-unassigned. MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous golden surfaces show some deeper gold on the high points. A rarity owing to the minor nature of the repunching at the 9; as Snow notes, "A very minor repunched date, but rarely seen." Discovered by Chris Pilliod. A pleasing coin for the grade, and a grand opportunity for an advanced Indian cent variety collector to obtain a rare variety with the Larry Steve cachet. Accompanied by an *Eagle Eye Photo Seal* certificate.

Obverse 7: Minor repunching in the upper loop of the 9.

Reverse G: No cracks or other markers.

Interestingly enough, the PCGS holder has an *Eagle Eye Photo Seal* sticker on it that reads "S-6." Careful examination reveals it to be a Snow-5, however, which was correctly noted on another sticker, this in Larry Steve's handwriting.

159 **1859 Repunched 18. Snow-6. Rarity-unassigned. AU-58 (ANACS).** Lustrous deep golden brown with pale rose iridescence in the protected areas. Doubling plainest at the upright of the 1 and in the loops of the 8. As author Rick Snow noted, "This is a very scarce variety. The repunching is rather bold, ensuring its desirability with collectors." We are pleased to offer this scarce and desirable variety to an appreciative audience of specialists, only one of whom will be able to add this coin to his or her holdings. You know what it takes to be that lucky collector, so please bid accordingly!

Obverse 8: Strong repunching at the right side of the upright of the 1 and inside the loops of the 8.

Reverse H: Outlines on the wreath and denomination at the top of the design.

Popular Pattern 1859 Indian Cent
Judd-228, Pollock-272
Obverse of '59, Reverse of '60

160 **1859 pattern Indian cent. Judd-228; Pollock-272; Snow-PT4; Breen-1946. Rarity-2. MS-64 (PCGS).** Cupro-nickel. Plain edge. Intense lustre glows broadly beneath pale gold and rose iridescent highlights. Reverse of 1860 and later, with an oak and olive wreath topped by a shield; the regular-issue 1859 cents have an un-

adorned laurel wreath for the reverse style. Among the most popular of all pattern small cent issues owing to its close association with the Indian cent series; this popular pattern was struck in Mint State (Rarity-2; Snow's Die Pair 1) as offered here, and in the Proof format (Rarity-7; Snow's Die Pair 2, with fewer than 20 thought to be struck, and with far fewer than that number known today). Indeed, so popular is this particular pattern that it was actually listed in the 1957 edition of Wayte Raymond's *Standard Catalog of United States Coins* as a regular issue! Typically available in high grades, Judd-208 was struck in reasonably high numbers for a pattern issue (see below). Today's collectors are fortunate; though they can no longer entreat the Mint for a nice example of Judd-228, they only need look to the present sale of the Larry Steve Collection for a nice example of the issue.

Obverse 10: For circulation strikes only. Small die line in dentils to left of 1 in date, die lines extend upward from 9 to hair curls above.

Reverse type of 1860-A. Olive leaves and shield points away from dentils.

Regarding the availability of Judd-228 in high grades, author and specialist Rick Snow relates the following scenario as a distinct possibility: "The non-proof examples were struck in large numbers and are found in very high levels of preservation. The ratio of very choice examples to impaired and circulated pieces is much higher than other cent patterns of similar rarity like the 1858 PT28 (Judd-208) and the 1856 S-3. It is possible that, unlike the 1856 and 1858 issues, these coins were not distributed widely to collectors at the time. Additionally, the unsold examples were not released into circulation like many of the 1858 pattern cents. The 500 or so examples struck were likely rediscovered in later years, possibly around 1870. These would have been afforded a higher collector interest than at the time they were struck."

Scarce 1860 Pointed Bust Cent

161 **1860 Type I. Pointed Bust. Snow's Die Pair-unlisted. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 (PCGS).** A highly lustrous and fully brilliant pale rose-gold specimen of the rarer of two types for the year (the other type has a rounded point to the Indian's bust, and is considerably more common than the presently offered type with pointed tip to bust). Snow estimates that perhaps one million examples of the date were from the pointed bust dies, as here, while some 19 million plus examples of the date were struck from the rounded bust dies; this reasoning falls in line with the availability of the two types. Further, the present coin does not match any of the die pairs listed by Rick Snow in the notes given to this writer (FVV) for study and comment (the notes will soon become the updated edition of Snow's landmark reference); the description of the dies can be found below. Rarity and strong aesthetic appeal always make for an exciting round of bidding activity, and the present coin has both in abundance. Accordingly, we suspect an abundance of bidding activity will be the outcome when this lovely numismatic prize crosses the auction block.

Obverse: Left edge of lower serif of 1 over center of dentil below, die artifact (remnants of the base of an A?) above lower right foot of first A in AMERICA, raised die line across lowest feather in headdress, top of R connected but very thin near upright of that letter, another tiny die artifact above left foot of 1.

Reverse: Fairly indistinctive, free of salient marks.

Rare 1860 Snow-1 Indian Cent
Unknown in Mint State
The Snow Plate Coin

162 **1860 Type II. Rounded Bust. Repunched 18. Snow-1. Rarity-unassigned. AU-50 (ANACS).** Medium gold with splashes of red and strong underlying lustre. An elusive variety about which Rick Snow commented (in his soon-to-be-released update) "Very scarce. Presently unknown in Mint State." Accordingly, the AU specimen offered here surely ranks among the finest examples known of the variety, and is surely a viable candidate for "finest known" honors. Not only that, it is the *discovery specimen* of this variety found by Larry Steve, and it is the Snow reference plate coin! Could you really ask for anything more from a rare coin?

Obverse 4: Minor repunching at the bases of 1 and 8 in date.

Reverse J: Cud-like die defect connects upper right corner of shield to dentils, another similar defect under the right side of the crossbar of the T in CENT, other small defects at places in the wreath below CENT.

Gem Uncirculated 1861 Cent
The Snow Plate Coin

163 **1861 Repaired ES, Doubled Die Obverse. Snow-2; FND-002; 1-O-III. MS-65 (NGC).** Satiny golden brown surfaces show intense lustre and lively rose iridescence. Obverse with broken ES, rehubbed with a new and unbroken pair of letters, now appearing as ES/ES. Minor doubling noted at the legends, mainly at ES in STATES, and at the Indian's eye lash. *The Snow reference plate coin.* Regarding this variety, Rick Snow notes "The doubling is very minor. The importance lies in how the Mint decided to correct the die in this instance. Initially reported by Chris Pilliod, but Larry Steve found it to be a doubled die." A scarce and popular date in Mint State in its own right; factor in the gem grade and the variety and you have a winning combination that will surely remain a highlight in your collection for years to come.

Obverse 5: Broken ES rehubbed with normal ES, resembling ES/ES. Minor doubling in the legends and at the Indian's eye.

Reverse E: Faint die crack from tip of upper right oak leaf to right side of shield.

164 **1862 Misplaced Digits. Snow-2; FND-002. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 (ANACS).** Intense cartwheel lustre on satiny rose-gold surfaces. The scarce variety with the tops of a misplaced 8 and 6 plainly visible in the dentils below the date. As Snow noted re-

garding the extra digits: "This die shows evidence of extensive abrasion around the misplaced digits. It is likely that a Mint employee tried to remove the digits." The present coin displays those misplaced digits to their fullest advantage; they are readily seen with the unaided eye. Such obvious blunders come few and far between in U.S. numismatics, as the typical *variety* usually requires careful examination under low magnification to be obvious to the viewer. All that aside, the present 1862 Indian cent is a splendid representative of the assigned grade, variety, and date, and should fetch a handsome price relative to its popularity.

Obverse 4: Tops of misplaced digits 86 in dentils below date.

Reverse D: Rim cud above the shield, other cuds from 2:00 to 6:00 at the rim.

165 **1863 Repunched 86. Snow-4; FND-002. Rarity-6. MS-64 (NGC).** A bright and glistening golden cent with intense cartwheel lustre that races boldly around the coin's central point. Bold repunching noted in the loops of the 8 and 6 in the date; Snow refers to this variety as "One of the best repunched dates of the year." Yet another important *and* attractive variety from the Larry Steve Collection, and a coin that will certainly stir the bidders into another bout of intense bidding activity.

Obverse 6: Bold repunching in the loops of the 8 and 6, die striations in the lower right field.

Reverse F: Heavy die crack from rim to wreath at 11:30.

The reverse die crack mentioned above is unusual in that it seems to be the result of a die with a broken rim. Careful examination shows that the crack shears through a dentil; the dentils to the left of the crack are noticeably higher than the dentils to the right side of the crack, resembling a drawn circle where the artist failed to make the end point of the circle join the beginning point.

1863 Doubled Die Reverse 1¢
"Boldest Doubled Die"

166 **1863 Doubled Die Reverse. Snow-10; FS1-006.46; 1-R-IV. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 (NGC).** Deep golden surfaces exhibit strong lustre and rich rose iridescence, affording an overall color scheme that closely resembles that of a bronze cent. Somewhat prooflike in the obverse field, slightly less so on the reverse. Strong offset doubling is seen on the right side of the reverse wreath. Rick Snow's comments on this variety are strong and to the point: "This is the boldest doubled die of the copper-nickel series. Collector demand is very high. Relatively new and not well known. Few collectors take the initiative to turn over their coins and look at the reverse, so this may be one that could be found if you are lucky." Feeling "lucky?" There's no need to search endless bourse floors waiting for lightning to strike, especially when the simple act of holding your bidding paddle high when this lot crosses the block is all the luck you'll need! Accompanied by an *Eagle Eye Photo Seal* certificate.

Obverse 12.

Reverse K: Strong doubling in the leaves on the right side of the wreath.

167 **1864 Copper-nickel. Rarity-1. MS-64 (PCGS).** Intense lustre on satiny red-gold surfaces. Choice for the grade. An unlisted Snow "variety," the present coin is simply a nice example of the date and grade, one that is totally free of salient marks or diagnostics that would classify it as a variety. Lack of specific variety aside, the present coin is chock full of eye appeal and nicely struck as well, and is definitely a coin that would fit nicely in any Indian cent collection.

168 **1864 Copper-nickel. Repunched 4. Snow-4. Rarity-unassigned. MS-63 (ANACS).** Lustrous bright golden surfaces. A fleck of detritus is seen on the reverse at the E in CENT. In the forthcoming edition of the Snow reference, Snow-4 is described as "Base of 4 repunched boldly to the west at the base of the digit." (The dies of this interesting variety are further described in detail below by the writer). A thoroughly engaging specimen of the date, and an intriguing variety that bears further study.

Obverse 6: "Base of 4 repunched boldly to the west at the base of the digit." A further study of the obverse reveals that repunching is plain at the 4 in the date, and the distinct outline of a 6 can be seen to the left of the existing 6. Also, a case could be made for repunching in the loops of the 8, and tiny die artifacts can be seen near the 1. Additionally, there is a noticeable swelling between the 6 and 4, and a cud is seen at the rim below the 8. Of further note: the tops of ES in STATES have either been crudely strengthened by hand, or there are die cracks in the tops of those letters; this writer (FVV) prefers the former explanation.

Reverse F: Die crack from center of central bottom ribbon follows the branch stem for a portion of its length before jutting to the next ribbon, and from there to the central arrow, where the crack follows the shaft and the arrow head, then juts upward across the leaves and joins the rim at 4:00. A second crack runs downward from the rim at 1:00 or so, then downward across the leaves before terminating at the top of the acorn in the 3:00 position.

169 **1864 Bronze. Repunched Date. Snow-1; FND-002. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RD (PCGS).** Bright red surfaces and strong cartwheel lustre make for an attractive example of our nation's first bronze small cent issue. Some light toning flecks can be seen, but the overall appeal is strong. Repunched date variety (from the same die as the copper-nickel Snow-1 variety of the same date); prominent details of the first date show at all four numerals. From a middle die state for the variety, with the crack that develops from the rim through the C in AMERICA and then to the hair curl and lowest feather not yet through the C. No die crack is seen yet at OF. Die clash marks are seen among the Indian's feathers. Late reverse state with heavy clash marks. A frosty gem Mint State bronze Indian cent and a coin that would benefit from further study.

Obverse 2: "Mid die stage: die crack from rim at 5:30 to base of 4. Late die stage: die crack from the rim at 4:00 through the C in AMERICA to the area

between the last feather and the hair curl. Another die crack runs from the rim at 12:30 to the tops of OF."

Reverse B: "Late die stage: heavy die clashes."

Rare 1864 Bronze Doubled Die Obverse 1¢

170 **1864 Bronze. Doubled Die Obverse. Snow-4b; FND-001; FS1-006.47; 1-O-V. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (ANACS).** Generous amounts of red mingle brightly with warm brown iridescence. LIBERTY boldly doubled (nearly as dramatically as on the 1873 doubled LIBERTY rarity), less dramatically so at certain feather tips, and the 4 in the date is repunched (a case could be made for repunching on the 6 as well). The present coin was attributed as Snow-4b by Larry Steve, but it doesn't appear to fit precisely any of the die combinations delineated by Snow (4a, 4b, and 4c; see below). Rick Snow calls this "A very rare and popular variety." He further notes that "the rarity is puzzling since this variety exists with three reverse dies. The die state of the obverse also calls for a large production. Discovered in 1993 (by Bob Stymax), this variety has not shown up with any regularity even though many specialists have been looking." Another great Mint State Indian cent from the Larry Steve Collection that will no doubt excite the specialists in the audience.

The present obverse comes closest to Snow's "mid die stage" of Snow-4b. There is a clash mark below the Indian's ear and other clash marks among the headdress feathers, but no die cracks have developed. The reverse die apparently matches Reverse P, found on Snow-4c. There is a die crack from the rim at 10:30 through the wreath to 9:00, and another crack from the rim at 1:00 that moves downward through the wreath where it meets another crack that originated at the rim at 3:00. There are also heavy clash marks, a salient feature not noted in Snow's description of Snow-4c.

GROUP OF 1864-L INDIAN CENTS

The following selection of 1864-L Indian cents is among the finest and most comprehensive groups of die varieties of the date ever assembled. Fully 14 of the 20 listed Snow varieties for the date are featured in the following lots, as are two pieces that may be entirely new varieties! This group of coins, numbering 16 individual 1864-L varieties in total, will no doubt generate a good deal of bidding excitement as each piece crosses the auction block. Those seeking varieties for their specialized collections, as well as those simply seeking a top-notch quality specimen of this rare date will be enthralled and enthused by the depth of selection and the overall quality of the 1864-L cents offered herein.

171 **1864-L Repunched Date. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-006.7; Breen-1962. Rarity-5. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** Satiny, lustrous surfaces display much more red than brown. A nicely struck and aesthetically appealing example of the first regular-issue bronze cent coinage with the designer's initial, L, on the ribbon at the back of the Indian's headdress. Date broadly repunched; the 1 and 8 are more visually dramatic than the 6 and 4. This variety is called "Triple Punched Date" in the Steve-Flynn reference. From a late state of the obverse, with a spidery network of die cracks that portend certain collapse of the die (description below). The 1864-L is a key date in the series as well as the most elusive and desirable of the 1864 small cent issues, being many times rarer than either the copper-nickel cents or the bronze cents without designer's initial L. Snow called this variety "A very prominent repunched date." He also noted "Collector demand is presently moderate, perhaps because of the numerous repunched dates known for this date. As this date gets more variety collector interest, this variety should benefit the most." A choice coin for the grade, one that is definitely worthy of heated bidding pursuit.

Obverse 4: Broad repunching on the date numerals, 18 heaviest, 64 less so. Vertical die line to left of date. A horizontal die crack extends from the tip of the uppermost feather to the right into the field, where it joins a crack that runs diagonally downward from the rim at 1:00 to the bottoms of OF AM. A small triangular crack connects the rim to the tops of ER, and another crack runs from the bottom of the C horizontally across the field to the hair curls, and another crack extends from the point of the bust to the U of UNITED.

Reverse U: Die crack from rim at 11:00 downward through wreath, and another at 2:30 from the wreath to the rim.

Gem Uncirculated 1864-L Indian Cent
Repunched Date
Probably Finest Known Snow-2

172 **1864-L Repunched Date. Snow-2; FND-002; FS1-006.7; Breen-1962. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (PCGS).** A bright and lustrous coin that is *easily* 85% to 90% full red, with the brown mostly limited to the high points of this lovely gem specimen. On this variety, the 18 in the date is broadly repunched, with the 6 less dramatic, and with the repunching on the 4 very slight. Perhaps the *finest known* example of Snow-2 found to date, based on Snow's notation that "The finest known are a MS-65 RB and a MS-64 RD graded by PCGS." Undoubtedly the "MS-65 RB" coin noted by Snow is the present coin, the Larry Steve specimen. From a late state of the obverse die (see below); reverse die clashed. The demand for quality 1864-L Indian cents never diminishes, although the supply of the date in the marketplace obviously diminishes every time an Indian cent specialist obtains one for his or her collection. An irresistible gem Mint State 1864-L cent, one that combines the rarity and desirability of the date with an elusive and eagerly sought-after variety. Accompanied by an *Eagle Eye Photo Seal* certificate.

Obverse 6: Date close to point of bust, 18 broadly repunched, 6 less so, 4 slightly so. Die breaks include one from the rim at 2:00 that terminates in the field near 1:00 after touching the tops of OF, another from the rim that touches the tops of ERIC before jutting back to the rim near the top of the final A in AMERICA. Still another crack from the rim at 5:00 connects the bottoms of the date numerals (Snow: "Die crack from base of 4 to rim at 5:00. This later will extend through the date"). Another crack extends from the point of the bust

through the U in UNITED, and then to the rim. Another crack extends from the rim above N diagonally to the top of the I, connecting to the tops of TED as well. Raised diagonal die line in dentils below 4 in date.

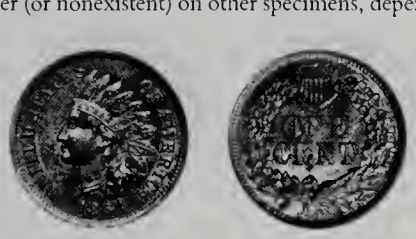
Reverse V: Die crack from upper right corner of shield to upper leaf of wreath.

Interestingly enough, Rick Snow notes that counterfeit Indian cents are known from the obverse die of Snow-2. These lack the bottom serif on the second S in STATES, and there is a depression on the bottom of the ribbon under the left leg of the R in LIBERTY.

173 **1864-L Triple Punched Date. Snow-3; FND-003. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** Intense lustre on satiny, matte-like surfaces with attractive wisps of iridescent pale violet gathered at the rims. Variety with 1 and 8 in date punched three separate times, and with repunching showing to a lesser degree at the 6; no noticeable repunching is seen at the 4. Struck from a lightly clashed reverse die. Snow called this variety "Fairly scarce, with the finest known being a single MS-65 RB graded by PCGS." A grand example of the date, grade, and variety in all respects. As a matter of fact, the present coin is almost certainly a *Condition Census* example of the variety, which the bidder will do well to keep in mind when the bidding begins.

Obverse 7: Date numerals repunched as described above. Early die states show a faint line over the dentils below the 4.

Reverse W: Fairly "normal" save for the mentioned die clash marks; these may be heavier (or nonexistent) on other specimens, depending on the die state.



174 **1864-L Triple Punched Date. Snow-4; FND-004. Rarity-6. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous woodgrain surfaces with rich chestnut iridescence at the rims; generous amounts of red make their presence known as well. Triple punched date numerals, 186 boldly so, 4 slightly less so. Rick Snow called this "An interesting variety with repunching in two directions. Very similar to S-3 above. Aside from the difference in the strength of the repunching, the date positions are very different." Another attractive 1864-L cent (and intriguing die variety) from the Larry Steve Collection.

Obverse 8: All date numerals repunched, 18 at tops *and* bottoms, 6 and 4 less dramatically.

Reverse X: Several small die lines from the dentils at 7:00 to 8:00, small die crack from tip of central arrow through dentils to rim.

175 **1864-L Repunched Date. Snow-5b; FND-005; FS1-006.5. Rarity-7. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** Lustrous warm chestnut and bright red hues form a pleasing contrast on woodgrain surfaces. Date with 18 dramatically repunched, 64 with a hint of repunching at their tops. From the late state of Snow-5 (Snow-5a being the early state), described by Snow as "Heavy distortion due to excessive die wear, feathers are worn to such an extent they appear to be doubled." He then relates that "A late die state example was erroneously thought to be a doubled die, possibly a With L design over a No L die. The severely eroded feathers showed apparent doubling. When an early die state example was located this theory was disproved." Snow noted "two MS-65 RBs are known graded by PCGS." The present coin from the Larry Steve Collection is not far off the finest known mark, which is certainly good news for potential bidders.

Obverse 9: Date and dies as described above.

Reverse Z: Die crack from rim to upper right corner of shield, another from rim at 2:00 diagonally upward to leaves. A die lump is seen at the lower right foot of the E in CENT.

176 **1864-L Repunched Date. Snow-6; FND-006. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** A lovely Mint State 1864-L cent with lustrous, satiny surfaces. Bright mint red shares the limelight with the warm golden brown toning that appears on the high points. Plainly discernible repunching at the 1 and 8, less so in the loop of the 6, none noted at the 4. Reverse die lightly clashed. Regarding this variety, Rick Snow noted "The initial digits were punched into the die skewed so that the 18 received the heaviest impression." He went on to note that: "This is a scarce variety with the finest known MS-64 RB by PCGS." We suspect he was writing about the present Larry Steve coin! Yet another lovely example of a scarce and popular date coupled with a highly collectable variety and an impeccable pedigree.

Obverse 10: As described above.

Reverse AA: Die crack from rim, across dentil to upper right corner of shield, another from tip of central arrow to rim, and another from leaf at 8:00 to rim. Light clash marks on some specimens.

Choice Uncirculated 1864-L Cent
Repunched date

177 **1864-L Repunched Date. Snow-8. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Fiery red with some deeper red highlights on the high points. Intense cartwheel lustre pivots brightly around the centers of this lovely cent, increasing the already significant appeal of the piece. Repunching plainest at the 8, 6, and 4 in the date. Moderate clash marks on the reverse. A fairly scarce variety that is avidly sought after despite the somewhat less than dramatic repunching at the date numerals. Discovery kudos for this variety go to Ken Hill and Chris Pilliod, two familiar names in current day numismatics. A lovely MS-64 RD 1864-L cent with plenty of eye appeal and that all-important "Larry Steve Collection" cachet.

Obverse 11: Date as described above, die cracks from rim at 3:00, across the M in AMERICA, then to the feather opposite that letter, another from the top edge of the Indian's bust to the U of UNITED. Additionally, what may be the top of an errant numeral peeks from the dentils below the 1, a small swelling connects the 8 and 6, and a cud has formed in the dentils beneath the 6.

Reverse AC: No real diagnostic "markers" present save for a faint die crack from the rim to the ribbon just to the left of the arrow feathers.

Gem Mint State 1864-L 1¢
Snow-10a, Repunched 86

178 **1864-L Repunched 86. Snow-10a; FND-007. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (NGC).** Equal amounts of shimmering red and warm chestnut brown share the satiny, lustrous surfaces of this gem 1864-L cent. A tiny toning spot is seen in the dentils below the 4, and a few tiny flecks can be seen on the reverse when a glass is applied, but this gem still measures up to the assigned grade in all respects. The scarce variety with boldly repunched 86 in date, but with the other numerals offering just a hint of repunching at their uprights. Snow-10a represents an early die state with some light clash marks but none of the light die cracks that form later (Snow-10b). This variety was discovered by Jack Beymer. Yet another pleasing gem example of the date that will see spirited bidding participation.

Obverse 13: "Thin" dentils from 9:00 to 10:00, repunching within the lower loops of the 8 and 6, faint clash marks but no die cracks.

Reverse AP: Early state, die cracks not yet formed at 2:00 and 8:30.

Gem Uncirculated 1864-L Cent
Snow-11, Repunched 86

179 **1864-L Repunched 86. Snow-11; FND-008. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (NGC).** Lustrous deep golden red and lively tan highlights share the satiny surfaces of this gem Indian cent. Light repunching within the lower loops of the 8 and 6. Discovered by Larry Steve. Snow calls this variety "Only moderately scarce," and notes that "A few are known graded as high as MS-65 RB." The present coin is certainly a *Condition Census* example of the date, and worthy of bidding respect as such. A lovely coin overall.

Obverse 14: Repunching as noted above.

Reverse AF: A die crack runs from the berry that touches the left side of the ribbon across the ribbon and the shaft of the lowest arrow, then upward across the second ribbon fold and along the central arrow's shaft to the arrowhead; there it splits, with one crack advancing from the underside of the arrowhead to the rim, and with the other crack jutting upward into the leaf above.

180 **1864-L Repunched 4. Snow-12. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (ANACS).** Bright pale golden red with strong lustre. Repunching is seen at the 4, and a small die bulge connects all four date numerals. Reverse faintly clashed. "This seems to be a scarce variety," noted Rick Snow, which certainly adds to the collector appeal of the present coin.

Obverse 15: Repunching at 4, bulge at date, faint die crack through OF to rim above.

Reverse AG: Faint die cracks seen from wreath to dentils at 2:00, 5:00 (from lowest arrow point), 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00.

181 **1864-L Repunched 64. Snow-14; FND-009. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (NGC).** Fiery orange-red with strong lustre and equally fine eye appeal. Struck on a flawed planchet at the Mint; there is an edge split and some areas of lamination on the reverse at 3:00, as struck, and an unusual occurrence in the Indian cent series in its own right! Repunching seen at inside loop of 6, and slightly so above crossbar of 4 (the repunching at the 4 disappears rapidly from the die and only shows in early states, as here). An eye-catching example of the date and grade in all respects.

Obverse 6: Light repunching in lower loop of 6 and slightly above crossbar of 4, which later disappears from die. A faint die crack (which may strengthen in later die state examples) runs diagonally upward from the right top side of the 8 to the hair curl above the 4.

Reverse AI: A die crack runs the length of the central arrow shaft, crossing the ribbon on its way, then out the arrowhead to the dentils at 4:00. Another small crack joins the dentils to the leaf at 9:00.

Spectacular Shattered Obverse 1864-L Cent
Snow-16, Vertical Die Crack
The Snow Plate Coin

182 **1864-L Vertical Die Crack. Snow-16. Rarity-unassigned. MS-63 RB (NGC).** Highly lustrous red and brown woodgrain surfaces. A lovely example of the date and assigned grade. Struck from lightly clashed dies. A spectacular variety to behold. An obverse die crack extends from rim to rim at 12:00 downward to 6:00, crossing the Indian's portrait as it does, and leaving a trail of raised die cuds in its wake, including one cud that fills the loops and practically obliterates the 6 in the date. The obverse die may very well have split in half before it produced too many more impressions, and the reverse is on the verge of shattering as well (see below)! Regarding the crack, Snow states the following: "It is present policy not to list die cracks as separate varieties, but an exception was made in this case due to severity of the crack and its desirability." A rare variety, one that is seldom found in any grade, let alone choice Mint State, as offered here. An unprecedented opportunity for an advanced Indian cent variety enthusiast. Here is where the bidding hits the proverbial "fast and furious" pitch!

Obverse 18: As described above with additional cracks through D STATE and AME.

Reverse AK: Die crack from rim across dentil to leaf, then downward to acorn at 3:00 position, another upward from rim at 5:00 to the lower ribbon end, then horizontally left across the ribbon, stem, central ribbon, and olive leaves before joining the dentils at 7:00.

Gem Uncirculated 1864-L 1¢
Snow-17, Repunched 8

183 1864-L Repunched 8. Snow-17. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (NGC). Bright, satiny red just beginning to take on lovely pale brown highlights. A pretty coin in all respects. Repunching present at the 8 of the date on this scarce variety discovered by our consignor, Larry Steve. A pleasing gem 1864-L Indian cent in all respects.

Obverse 19: Repunching as noted above.

Reverse AM: Die crack from end of stem to dentil.

184 1864-L Repunched 18. Snow-20. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (NGC). Generous amounts of bright red mingle nicely with splashes of rich tan on the satiny, lustrous surfaces of this attractive 1864-L cent. Struck from lightly clashed dies. Yet another variety discovered by our consignor, Larry Steve. Rick Snow described this variety best when he wrote "Microscopic repunching visible on the base of the 1 and above the lower loop of the 8. Two vertical date position lines to the right and left of the date. A horizontal date line passes through the top half of the 64 in the date and extends to the right of the date. Apparent repunching on the 4 is caused by an anomaly in the digit punch." Definitely choice Mint State, so bid with confidence.

Obverse 22: As described above.

Reverse AP: Die crack from upper left corner of shield horizontally to dentils at 11:30, raised die lumps on upright of E in CENT.

Gem Mint State 1864-L Cent
Unlisted Repunched Date Variety

185 1864-L Repunched 86. Snow-unlisted. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (NGC). A satiny red and brown gem with strong lustre and a hint of woodgrain contrast. Discovered by Larry Steve. Repunching shows plainly at the lower left edges of the 8 and 6 in the date, horizontal "dash" in dentils below 6. A newly discovered variety, one as yet to be listed by Rick Snow, and one that is presently quite rare (this, of course, could change if more examples are located). An attractive coin and a *new* variety!

Obverse: As described above.

Reverse: No salient die features.

186 1864-L Repunched 86. Snow-unlisted. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (NGC). A highly lustrous satiny red gem with a nuance of pale brown on the high points. Faint repunching noted at the base of the 8 and within the lower loop of the 6. Obverse die with circular lathe lines on the Indian's portrait, reverse die lightly clashed. A delightful example of the date and variety, and a coin that will please virtually any Indian cent collector.

Obverse: As noted above, and with raised die lines connecting ICA to the dentils above those letters, and with more die lines through UNITE. Circular lathe marks on the Indian's portrait.

The circular die lines on the portrait of Liberty (the Indian) are seen on 1864 No L issues, and on Liberty Seated half dollars and certain gold issues of the era. The lines are "artifacts from the transfer lathe process" according to information on pages 64-66 of *A Buyer's and Enthusiasts' Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents* by Q. David Bowers. In that reference work, the lines are discussed in detail accompanied by various correspondences from Craig Sholley, Larry Steve, and Rick Snow. We direct the reader's attention to that reference for further information.

Gem Mint State 1865 Indian Cent
Misplaced Digit Variety

187 1865 Plain 5. Repunched Date, Misplaced Digit. Snow-3a; FND-003; FS1-007.5; Breen-1867. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (NGC). Satiny medium brown with bursts of red brightness in the protected areas. A sharp and appealing gem. Struck from lightly clashed dies. Repunching plain at 186, as is the remnant of a misplaced digit, probably a double-punched 8, between the existing 8 and 6 in the date. Rick Snow called this one "A very dramatic variety with a very interesting misplaced digit between the 8 and 6." Early die state, no cracks yet formed at date.

Obverse 6: As noted above, and with heavy diagonal die lines that connect the tip of the bust to the U of UNITED.

Reverse G: Heavy die defect line from rim at 2:00 to the field.

Rare 1865 Doubled Die Reverse Indian Cent
Choice Mint State

188 **1865 Fancy 5. Doubled Die Reverse. Snow-2a; FND-001; FS1.007; 1-R-IV. Rarity-unassigned. MS-63 RD (NGC).** Blazing red with a touch of tan on the high points. Struck from clashed dies. The date and portions of the peripheral obverse legend are very weak and rough, as though injured in the die. Extreme reverse die doubling is seen at ONE CENT and at most of the wreath and feather details as well. Discovered by J.T. Stanton. This spectacular variety was called "One of the top doubled dies in the series" by Rick Snow, who went on to say that "If collector habits held that the reverse carried as much importance for die varieties (as well it should) then this variety would be on the same interest level with the famed 1873 Doubled LIBERTY, Closed 3, Snow-1. It is certainly *rarer.*" He further noted: "Only one example seen, MS-63 RD NGC. Larry R. Steve Collection." Here is what may be the *only* known example of the variety in Mint State; indeed, this could be the *only* specimen known in any grade! Can you find an example through diligent searching on bourse floors? With a lot of luck and loads (and loads) of patience, you certainly may uncover an example. Can you buy one here and now? Of course you may, but you must be prepared to hold your bidder paddle high and long, for you certainly won't be the *only* specialist to show an interest in this rarity!

Obverse 17: As noted above, plus with die file marks above CA and around the Indian's portrait.

Reverse Q: As noted above. Die cracks later develop (Snow-2b).

1866 Tripled IBERTY 1¢ Variety

189 **1866 Tripled IBERTY, Misplaced Digits. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-007.6; 1-O-V. Rarity-5. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** Satiny orange and tan blend succinctly on this lustrous Indian cent. A toning fleck is noted above the I in AMERICA, though the coin is still a solid representative example of the grade in all respects. Bold triple punching at IBERTY. There is also the base of an errant 1 peeking out from the Indian's pearl necklace, as well as the tops of *two* 6s in the dentils below the date! A grand variety at many levels, and a popular key date as well. What more could an Indian cent collector desire?

Obverse 2: Tripling and misplaced digits as described above, die cracks at tops of MERICA, base of date numerals to rim at 7:00, tops of UNIT, and bases of STAT. Die gouge between ear and curl.

Reverse B: Numerous diagonal die polish lines, especially so around ONE CENT.

190 **1866 Repunched 1. Snow-3a; FND-003; FS1-007.9. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** Satiny red and brown with a slight woodgrain appearance. An attractive Indian cent, lustrous, appealing, and decidedly choice for the grade. Variety with broadly repunched 1 in date, called "A very scarce and popular variety" by Rick Snow.

Obverse 4: Widely repunched 1, small die crack atop MERI, clash marks at 12:00.

Reverse D: Die State B, crack from rim at 2:00 downward through wreath to arrow tips, another crack across bow and stem to rim, another in the wreath from about 7:00 upward to 9:00 or so.

Gem Uncirculated 1867 Indian 1¢
Repunched 67

191 **1867 Repunched 67. Snow-1a; FND-001; FS1-008. Rarity-6. MS-65 RB (ANACS).** Lustrous fiery orange with bright violet and blue on the high points. A tiny toning spot is seen at the base of the I in AMERICA. Sharply struck from clashed dies and with strong circular die lathe lines on the Indian's portrait. A delightful gem example of the date and variety. Boldly repunched 67 in date; this variety was first brought to light by Q. David Bowers in his *Empire Topics* (No. 5, 1959), and has been called "One of the top repunched dates in the Indian cents series" by Rick Snow, who went on to note: "In addition to being a bold 'naked eye' variety, it is very scarce within a semi-key date year." Another splendid opportunity presented to our bidders courtesy of the Larry Steve Collection.

Obverse 2: Bold repunching at the tops of 67, circular lathe marks heavy on the Indian's neck, especially so at the pearls, lower curls, and the L on the ribbon, die striations from rim through ATE.

Reverse B: Die line upward from lower back of C in CENT, die crack from olive leaf across ribbon and stem to shaft of central arrow, another from rim at 7:00 to nock of arrow, other fine cracks in and around the wreath, and with heavy die striations in the field.

Gem Uncirculated 1867 Indian Cent
The Snow Plate Coin

192 **1867 Repunched 18. Snow-5b; FND-002. Rarity-7. MS-65 RB (ANACS).** Bright, highly lustrous red surfaces with some deeper highlights in the protected areas. From an early stage of die use, with bold repunching seen at the 18 in the date; the repunching later fades considerably at the 8. Struck from boldly clashed dies, with evidence of such plainest on the obverse. This variety was first

discovered by Larry Steve, and this, the *discovery specimen,* was the *plate coin* in the Snow reference. This photogenic coin is laden with eye appeal and strong physical attributes, and represents a scarce variety as well, which provides all the makings of a "hot" lot when it crosses the auction block.

Obverse 6: Die characteristics as noted above, faint die break at base of date, die striations visible in the field.

Reverse G: Heavy die polish lines in the vertical stripes of the shield, vertical die crack from dentil to tip of stem, then upward to ribbon, die striations in the fields.

Gem Uncirculated 1868 Indian Cent
Doubled Die Obverse

193 **1868 Doubled Die Obverse. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-008.2; 1-O-V. Rarity-6. MS-65 RD (NGC).** Bright and lustrous deep golden red surfaces with deeper hues on the high points. Struck from lightly clashed dies. A satiny gem example of a popular semi-key date, this with the added attraction of *Double Die Obverse* features; the doubling is strongest at RTY and the designer's initial, L, on the ribbon behind the Indian's neck. Discovered by Larry Steve. Rick Snow called this variety "A scarce and marginally popular Doubled Die, however the spread of the doubling is very small and this variety may escape notice." We have a sneaking suspicion that the present lot will not "escape notice."

Obverse 3: Minor doubling visible at RTY and the L on the ribbon, die line from nose to eyelid offers a "crying Indian" effect.

Reverse C: Die crack from the upper right corner of the shield to the wreath end, another from the rim at 9:00 to the wreath, then upward through the wreath to about 10:00.

1868 "String of Pearls" Cent Variety
Choice Mint State

194 **1868 Repunched 18, "String of Pearls." Snow-10. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Intense cartwheel lustre present on satiny red surfaces. Sharply struck and visually appealing, perhaps even a candidate for resubmission to a third-party grading service. Slight repunching at the 18. Struck from a failing reverse die (see below). The "String of Pearls" variety first brought to light by Rick Snow. According to Snow, the raised die line through the pearls at Liberty's neck (from which this variety derives its colorful sobriquet) was "caused by lint being impressed into the die during the hubbing process." No doubt among the finest examples of the variety extant, and a grand way to represent this popular semi-key date in your Indian cent collection. Accompanied by an *Eagle Eye Photo Seal* certificate.

Obverse 12: Features as noted above, die crack at base of date.

Reverse L: Die lines from wreath to back of C in CENT. A circular die crack begins at the rim near 12:30, and then juts down to the left across the shield and into the wreath, making a complete circle through the wreath before exiting at the upper right tip and joining the right side of the shield. This crack branches in several places in the wreath, with extensions to the rim at 3:00 and 9:00. From the look of things, the center of this die probably eventually collapsed.

Gem Uncirculated 1869/69 Indian Cent
A Perennial Collectors' Favorite
The Snow Plate Coin

195 **1869/69 Repunched 69. Snow-3d; FND-002; FS1-008.5; Rarity-6. MS-65 RB (ANACS).** Fully lustrous rich red surfaces with deepening tones on the high points. Struck from lightly clashed dies. *The Snow plate coin!* A pleasing example of a popular variety (once thought to be an overdate, 1869/8, but now known for its true nature, simply a repunched 9), the discovery rights of which go to Walter Breen way back in 1953. A prized variety that is eagerly collected alongside the "regular" issues in the series, especially where gem Mint State specimens are concerned.

Obverse 4: Bold repunching at the 9, less so at the 6. small die chip on Liberty's cheek, small die line through lips.

Reverse E: Snow's "die stage C," light clash marks, crack from rim across top of shield to opposite rim, crack in wreath at 3:00 extends downward and then to the rim at 5:00, a vertical crack in the wreath at 9:00.

In 1953, the year Walter Breen discovered this variety, he was a 23 year old prodigy only a few years removed from a VA hospital in Massachusetts. He lived in New York City at the time, having been hired in 1952 by New Netherlands Coin Company according to Pete Smith's *American Numismatic Biographies.* Five years later, he would be named a coauthor of *Penny Whimsy.*

196 **1869 MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Lustrous blazing orange-red surfaces with delightful eye appeal for the grade. Struck from heavily clashed dies (and a heavily cracked obverse, see below). Not a variety *per se,* just a "plain old" 1869 Indian cent with a ton of eye appeal, a coin that Larry Steve no doubt could not resist when he saw it at a coin show (we all own coins like that!). Choice for the grade.

Obverse with a heavy crack from the tip of the lowest diamond on the Indian's headdress curving across the bust to a point in the field below the T of UNITED, another at the tops of NITED STATES, another at the tops of AMERI, and another from the rim diagonally through CA. Numerous other tiny cracks and clash marks are noted as well. Many crisscrossed die lines connect the reverse rim to the wreath, in some places quite heavy.

Extremely Rare 1870 Indian Cent Variety
Very Few Known
Possibly First Auction Appearance of the Variety

197 **1870 Doubled Die Obverse, 0 in Dentils. Snow-5; FS1-001; 3-R-III. Rarity-8. VG-8 (ANACS).** Medium brown and essentially problem-free for such a well-circulated coin. An intriguing rarity, a variety that displays slight obverse doubling at IBERTY (here not so obvious due to the wear associated with the grade), doubling at the 18 in the date, and a misplaced 0 in the dentils below the 7! An amazing rarity, one of only *two* examples of the variety known to Larry Steve in 1995, though a few more specimens may now be known. The present variety was called by Steve "A multi-variety type of coin with three different categories on one side of the coin! Extremely rare." "Co-discovered" by Vicken Yegparian (the Doubled Die Obverse details) and Jack Beymer (the misplaced digit detail). While not the finest coin in the Steve Collection where eye appeal is concerned, it certainly gets a nod from us where *rarity* is concerned—it might very well be the rarest variety in the collection! You may be surprised at just how much of a stir this little circulated Indian cent produces when it makes its auction appearance.

Obverse 6: "Errant 0 is very visible in the dentils below. Also possible other digits below the 1. Minor doubling visible on IBERTY. Repunching visible mostly inside the loops of the 8." Die crack at date.

Reverse T3-C: "Small curved line in the lowest oak leaf on the left wreath. Die crack from the rim at 7:00 into wreath. Die crack from wreath at 8:00 to the rim at 10:00."

Vicken Yegparian identified this doubled die obverse when he was a prodigious high schooler from New Jersey. Today he earns his living as a professional numismatist with a well-known New York City firm. He is also credited with discovering doubled dies in other American series as well as on coins of the nation of Colombia.

Choice Red Mint State 1870 Cent
Type 3 Reverse
The FND Plate Coin

198 **1870 Type 3 Reverse. MS-64 RD (ANACS).** A blazing red specimen that explodes with strong lustre and great eye appeal for the grade. Faint traces of an old fingerprint can be seen on the reverse, but the overall integrity of the grade is still well maintained. Struck from lightly clashed dies. From the Type 3 reverse about which Snow wrote "First used in 1870, these dies show a bold N in ONE. The centers of the Es are trumpet shaped. The letters are typically seen with extra outlines which vary in strength, depending on the depth of the hub impression and the die state." Attributed by Larry Steve as "Type 3 Reverse, Die 1." This lively beauty was the plate coin used for illustration purposes in *The F.IND.ERS Report*. Definitely choice Mint State by any standard, and worthy of an admiring look before bidding commences.

Obverse: Spidery die cracks throughout the peripheral legends, including one that runs from the rim above U to the bottoms of the 1 and 8 in the date. Two closely spaced diagonal die lines are seen at the juncture of Liberty's jaw and neck, midway between her ear and chin, and another raised line, this resembling a backward C, can be seen below her ear. A swollen area is noted at 12:00 at the dentils.

Reverse: As described above. Also of note is a die crack from the rim at 2:00 that runs downward across the rim, dentils, and field, and then along the interior right side of the wreath to the ribbons. Another crack connects a leaf tip to the rim at 7:00, and another is noted at the end of the left wreath to the shield. Additionally, heavy raised die lines connect the dentils to the wreath in many places, heaviest at 7:00 to 9:00.

199 **1871 Repunched Date. Snow-1a; FND-006; FS1-008.6; 1-O-IV. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (ANACS).** Bright red mingles nicely with pastel violet and blue iridescence. A lustrous and thoroughly attractive example of a popular key date in the Indian cent series and a collectable variety as well. This popular variety, discovered by Chris Pilliod, is caused by "a defective punch made from a punch matrix that had light repunching on the lower edges of the horizontal portions of the digits," according to Rick Snow's reference. A pleasing example that would satisfy virtually any Indian cent collector in search of a nice 1871 cent.

Obverse 3: From punch as described above. Raised vertical die lines, leaning slightly left, at the upper edge of the headdress band between feathers three and four, and between feathers four and five as well.

Reverse T3-B: "Die crack from the rim at 6:30 up through the wreath to the rim at 9:00, then through the top of the left side of the wreath into the field at 11:30. Die crack from the rim to the top right of the shield. Die crack from the wreath at 1:00 touching the rim at 2:30 then continuing to the arrow tips."

Choice Uncirculated 1872 Indian 1¢
Triple Punched Date

200 **1872 Triple Punched Date. Snow-1; FND-001; Breen-1984. Rarity-7. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** Heavy lustre on lively golden red woodgrain surfaces. Nicely struck for the date; this variety is frequently weak at the tips of the headdress feathers and at the reverse shield. First discovered by Carl Herkowitz, who specializes in the cents of 1872. Repunching plain at the 1 and 2, negligible at the 8 and 7. A lovely example of an important key date, one that is always in demand in choice Mint State, as offered here; the added interest in the *variety* should heighten the demand for this particular specimen.

Obverse 3: As described above, no other salient features.

Reverse T3: No die cracks or other features.

Important 1873 Cent Variety
Doubled Die Obverse Rarity
Type I, Broadly Doubled LIBERTY

201 **1873 Close 3. Doubled Die Obverse. Type I. Snow-1b; FND-001; FS1-009; 1-O-V; Breen-1986. Rarity-6 (as graded). AU-50 (ANACS).** Glossy medium brown and devoid of all but some trivial marks that only appear under low magnification. On this rare and elusive variety, LIBERTY, the Indian's eye and lips, the designer's initial, L, and several feather quills are all broadly doubled, and the top of the D in UNITED is open. A great and proven rarity in the Indian cent series, a coin that is desirable in *all* grades (this writer [FVV] once found a G-VG example in a flea market vendor's wares at a "regular" date price; the doubled eye gave it away!). The present coin is among the finest known examples of the variety in circulated grades, with a few Mint State specimens also known. This variety was discovered by Walter Breen, and has been alternately called "King" or "Chief" of the Indian cent series. Definitely one of the highlights of the Larry Steve Collection, and a coin that will have no difficulty whatsoever finding an appreciative new owner!

Obverse 2: As described above, no die cracks yet present.

Reverse T3-B: Raised die lump between wreath and C of CENT, strong die file marks from arrow head to rim.

Rare 1873 Doubled Die Obverse Cent
Elusive Type II Variety
An Unheralded Rarity

202 **1873 Close 3. Doubled Die Obverse. Type II. Snow-2b; FND-002; FS1-009.1; 2-O-III. Rarity-7. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** Bold, dramatic lustre on satiny red woodgrained surfaces; splashes of rich violet on the high points heighten the eye appeal considerably. The Type II Doubled Die Obverse variety with modest but certain doubling at IBERTY noted, open D in UNITED (as described in the previous lot), and with die file marks at the rim at 5:00. This variety was discovered by ANACS. The present specimen is accompanied by one of Walter Breen's letters of authenticity (see below). Considered much rarer than the Type I variety with boldly doubled LIBERTY (Snow-1a, b, and c; Snow-1a is offered above), though perhaps less demand has surfaced for this variety as the doubling is not quite so obvious as on the Type I variety. Still, the present coin represents one of the finest examples of the variety currently known. We expect bidding in proportion to the rarity of the piece, so please plan accordingly!

Obverse 3: As described above.

Reverse T3-C: "A small but distinct die line from the first olive leaf (at 8:00) parallel with the rim."

As many collectors know, the late Walter Breen supplemented his living by writing letters of authenticity for collectors and dealers who sought his input and opinions on rare dates and varieties in the U.S. coin series. One such letter accompanies the present lot, and is reproduced here for the edification of potential bidders. The letter reads from top to bottom in Walter's familiar violet felt-tip pen: "Box 352 Berkeley, CA 94701 April 27, 1991. To whom it may concern: This certifies that I have examined the accompanying coin and that I unhesitatingly declare it genuine and as described below. It is an 1873 cent, Closed 3, doubled obverse die, attributed by ANACS (1982) as Double LIBERTY, Type II-Wexler 2. Evidently it is an earlier die state than the description in Wexler, as this shows all of LIBERTY doubled (plain on all letters though with a little less "spread" than on Type I) as well as plain doubling on feathers and ear. Much rarer than Type I, less often seen or illustrated; currently this is the finest specimen reported. Likely to remain a great rarity now that collectors are actively hunting for doubled dies. I am not sure that even a dozen are known to date. Respectfully submitted, Walter Breen."

Impressive Gem 1873 Open 3 Cent
Misplaced Digits Variety

203 **1873 Open 3. Misplaced Digits (3 in pearls, another on neck). Snow-6. MS-65 RB (NGC).** Intense lustre on glossy red surfaces; medium brown highlights grace the high points. An impressive gem specimen of this popular misplaced digits variety, this one with the ball of a 3 protruding from the first pearl in Liberty's necklace, and the bottom of *another* 3 at the underside of the neck truncation above the 1 in the date. Probably one of the finest known examples of the date; if we were prone to wagering, we'd bet that the present specimen is a *Condition Census* example of the variety! Choice for the grade and highly desirable as such.

Obverse 6: As described above, and with die file lines from the rim to the legends in several places.

Reverse T3-J: Snow's "Die stage C, Die crack from rim at 3:00 to wreath, additional die crack from the rim at 8:30 to the wreath, back to the rim at 10:30."

Choice Mint State 1874 Cent
Doubled Die Obverse Rarity

204 **1874 Doubled Die Obverse. Snow-1; FND-001; 1-O-V. Rarity-7. MS-64 RB (NGC).** Deep tan and golden red surfaces with mahogany highlights on the reverse. A tiny fleck is noted at 12:00 on the obverse, and another fleck is seen below the N of ONE on the reverse. Nicely struck. Slight doubling at LIBERTY and the feathers above. Discovered by Bret Palser. A rare variety that is little known, with the present specimen among the finest known examples.

Obverse 2: "Very slight doubling on LIBERTY, designer's initial, feathers, eye, and hair. Doubling also visible on the Es in the legend. Small die cracks from rim through tops of NITE, also tops of TATES, OF, and MER."

Reverse T3-A: "Die stage B: Die crack from the rim at 8:00 through the wreath to the rim at 7:00. Die crack from the rim at 10:30 to the wreath to 9:00. Die crack from the top right wreath to the top of the shield to the rim."

205 **1875 Doubled 18. Snow-3a; FND-001; Breen-1991. Rarity-6. MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Frosty brilliant red surfaces show strong lustre. A lovely coin despite the presence of faint traces of a fingerprint on the obverse. Bottoms of 1 and 8 repunched, the 1 dramatically, the 8 a little less so. Heavy die file marks from the rim below and to the right of the date, broken D in UNITED. A pleasing example of a variety discovered by Chris Pilliod.

Obverse 6: As noted above.

Reverse T3-E. Die roughness at both sides of the shield.

206 **1876 MS-64 RB (ANACS).** Deep golden red with violet highlights, intense cartwheel lustre, and a sultry, appealing charm. A few tiny flecks are seen, but the overall appeal is unchallenged by their presence. The present coin affords a break from the wide world of varieties that is the Larry Steve Collection, as it has no special attributes to set it apart from others of the date. As we noted earlier, sometimes a nice coin makes its way into a collection simply because it's *nice!*

Obverse: Faint clash marks.

Reverse: Light clash marks, heavy die file lines from rim to wreath at 3:00 to 5:00, others from rim to top of shield, die crack from rim at 8:30 upward through left side of wreath to about 10:00.

Choice Uncirculated 1877 Indian Cent Rarity

Key Date to the Series

207 **1877 Snow-2. MS-63 RB (NGC).** A lustrous medium red and pale rose example of the key date to the Indian cent series. Somewhat prooflike in the fields. Date numerals spaced apart (another obverse die, Snow-1, shows these two numerals nearly touching). A date that is always in demand regardless of the grade being sought. In fact, from Good-4 straight up to the finest Mint State examples of the date available, the demand is great enough to remain a constant in the hobby. In short, examples of this key date never go begging for bids when they are presented in the public auction venue, and we suspect the same will hold true for the present coin. Perhaps Dave Bowers said it best in his *Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide* when he remarked about the date: "Unexplained rarity: Specimens of the 1877 circulation strike cent have been especially elusive over the years, possibly even more so than the low mintage would explain, although opinions are mixed. Were some pieces melted and not released? Were Mint figures inaccurate? Did some large group of specimens meet an unknown fate? This is an interesting point to ponder. Or, are 1877 Indian cents rare today simply because relatively few were minted, and they became diluted among vastly larger issues of other dates?" Regardless of the reason, the date is downright *rare*, and has been recognized as a rarity in the series since well back into the late 1800s. The bidding on this superb piece will no doubt reflect that acclaimed rarity!

Obverse 5: As described above. A tiny raised die dot can be seen at the junction of the hair and neck, just above the ribbon.

Reverse T1-A: Heavy die clash marks at upper left curve of the O in ONE.

208 **1878 Repunched 8. Snow-1; FND-001. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** Highly lustrous deep golden red with splashes of violet in the reverse wreath. Definitely choice Mint State, both physically and aesthetically. Base of 1 shows faint repunching, bold remnants of an 8 in the upper loop of the 8 in the date. Discovered by Chris Pilliod. An underappreciated date, flanked as it is on one side by the 1877 rarity, and the other side by the more common 1879 issue. Those in the know, however, are always alertly seeking nice 1878 Indian cents, and the present coin is about as *nice* as you'll find for the grade and variety.

Obverse 4: As described above.

Reverse C: Lightly clashed, no other anomalies of note.

209 **1878 Misplaced Digits, 78 in dentils. Snow-2; FND-002; FS1-009.4. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (NGC).** Bright orange-red with deeper highlights. A satiny gem with prooflike fields and frosty motifs that offer a somewhat woodgrain appearance. Tops of errant 7 and 8 in dentils below 7 in date, a "relatively new but very obvious misplaced date" as noted in the Steve-Flynn reference. Another variety whose discovery is attributed to the keen eye of Chris Pilliod. A pleasing specimen, and no doubt among the finest known examples of the variety.

Obverse: As above and with a die crack from the rim at 5:30 to the bottoms of the date numerals, then to the rim above U.

Reverse: No special features.

210 **1879 Repunched 79. Snow-2; FND-001. Rarity-5. MS-64 RB (ANACS).** Warm orange, red, blue, and rose iridescence share the satiny, lustrous surfaces of this attractive Indian cent. Repunching plain at the bottom of the 9, less so at the underside of the flag of the 7, "defective 1 looks like additional repunching," according to Snow. Readily worthy of the assigned grade.

Obverse 4: As described above.

Reverse D: "Shield connected to dentils, olive leaf away from dentils. Die crack from rim into wreath at 3:00."

Remarkable 1880 Indian Cent Variety

211 **1880 Doubled Die Obverse, Misaligned Reverse Clash Marks. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-009.41; 1-O-III. Rarity-7. MS-65 RD (ANACS).** Bright and lustrous pale rose-red. A definite "one-two punch" where variety specialists are concerned. Not only is LIBERTY lightly doubled on the obverse, but there is an off-center clash mark on the reverse! This variety was first brought to light by Bill Fivaz, coauthor of *The Cherrypicker's Guide to Rare Die Varieties,* who noted in that reference that: "This variety has received little publicity but is definitely one of the favorites of Indian cent variety specialists." In his Indian cent reference, Snow described the reverse of this variety as: "Heavy off center clash shows dentils and ICA of AMERICA curving down from the rim at 12:30 to the approximate center of the die above N in CENT." Truly a remarkable happenstance that makes for an intriguing and exciting variety. This coin will almost certainly entertain a serious round of bidding activity before the auctioneer's hammer taps out its "sold" signal!

Obverse 3: As described above.

Reverse D: As described above, tiny die crack in wreath at 9:00.

212 **1881 Repunched 88. Snow-1. Rarity-unassigned. MS-63 RB (PCGS).** Deep red and blue mingle on satiny, lustrous surfaces. Bold repunching seen in the loops of both 8s in the date. A lovely coin that defines the parameters of the assigned grade.

Obverse 5: As described above.

Reverse E: Die crack from rim at 3:00 downward along outer edge of wreath, across the arrow heads and ribbon, then to the rim at 5:30, another from the rim at 8:00 downward across the two uppermost outer olive leaves.

213 **1882 Repunched Date. Snow-1; FND-001. Rarity-5. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** Fiery orange-red glows deeply beneath subtle violet iridescence. A lustrous specimen imbued with an innate beauty that is at once refreshing and impressive. Repunching plain in upper loops of both 8s, less so at the 2. Struck from lightly clashed dies. Choice for the grade, and every bit as lovely as we make it out to be!

Obverse 3: As described above.

Reverse C: Shield point and olive leaf connected to dentils by die roughness.

Gem Mint State 1883 Indian Cent

Finest Known of the Variety
Misplaced 1 in Necklace

214 **1883 Misplaced 1 at Bust. Snow-1; FND-002. Rarity-7. MS-66 RB (NGC).** Richly satisfying deep golden red surfaces display an abundance of intense lustre. Struck from faintly clashed dies. An amazing misplaced digit variety; the base of an errant 1 protrudes from the top of Liberty's bust line just below the first pearl on her necklace. Among the finest examples of the date certified by NGC (only one "RB" example has been graded finer by that organization), and the *finest known* example of the variety as well! Another neat variety unearthed by Chris Pilliod. A truly lovely gem that deserves serious accolades for both its appearance and its rarity.

NGC Census: 19; 1 finer (MS-67 RB).

Obverse 6: As described above.

Reverse F: Olive leaf connected to rim by die roughness, die crack from upper right of shield horizontally to dentils.

215 **1883 Misplaced Digits on Bust. Snow-7. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (ANACS).** Lustrous red with deeper highlights on the high points. Some faint flecks become apparent under low magnification, but their presence does little to bias the viewer's opinion. Struck from faintly clashed dies. A satisfying gem that readily lives up to the notion of what a gem Indian cent should be. Intriguing variety with base of 1 plainly evident between the third and fourth pearls on the Indian's necklace, and with the bottom of an 8 where the upper side of the ribbon behind the Indian's neck joins the bottom of the truncation. A nice coin in all respects.

Obverse 12: As described above.

Reverse L: Olive leaf and shield points attached to dentils by die roughness, faint die crack from dentil to wreath at 3:00

216 **1883 Misplaced Digits, 83 in Dentils. Snow-8. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RD (NGC).** Highly lustrous orange-red with rich rose iridescence that adds considerably to the overall aesthetics of the piece. Sharply struck and somewhat prooflike in appearance with modest cameo contrast present on both sides. The tops of an errant 8 and 3 are seen in the dentils immediately below the date. An attractive gem example of a popular and scarce variety.

Obverse 13: As above, and with fairly heavy vertical die striations that run from rim to rim on much of the obverse.

Reverse M: Right shield point attached to dentils by die roughness.

217 **1884 Misplaced Digits. Snow-1. FS1-009.48. Rarity-unassigned. MS-63 RD (NGC).** A gloriously lustrous fiery red specimen with outstanding eye appeal and physical quality for the assigned grade; indeed, we would not be surprised to see this coin in another holder with a finer grade some time after this sale is concluded! Variety with the tops of a misplaced 8 and 4 in the dentils below the date. The Indian's portrait is somewhat "pebbly" in appearance (the same is seen on the reverse at ONE CENT to a lesser extent), suggesting rust in the deep recesses of the die; many raised die polish lines can be seen in the hair details as well. As noted above, simply one of the *finest* representative examples of the grade you may ever see!

Obverse 4: As noted above.

Reverse E: Olive leaf joined to dentils by die roughness, heavy diagonal die line from inner leaf of wreath down across the bottom of the shield.

218 **1885 Digit at Ribbon End. Snow-1. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 BN (NGC).** Warm tan with delightful lustre and splashes of red in the protected areas. The bottom of a stray digit—a 1, 8, or 5, take your pick—can be seen at the junction of the bottom of the ribbon and the adjacent hair curl. Definitely gem in quality and appearance, and worthy of serious consideration by bidders.

Obverse 5: As noted above.

Reverse E: Olive leaf lightly joined to dentil by die roughness.

219 **1885 MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Lustrous deep red with a few tiny, insignificant flecks noted for accuracy. Sharp and appealing. Not a rare variety, just a lovely representative specimen of the date and grade.

Obverse: Die crack from lower hair curl that crosses the ribbon and bust, then runs through UN and the tops of ITED, others at the top of TES, OF, and RICA. Diagonal die line through I in LIBERTY.

Reverse: Points of shield and olive leaf lightly attached to dentils by die roughness, die crack in wreath at 8:00 moves upward through the wreath to the 9:00 position, small horizontal crack from upper right side of shield.

Gem Mint State 1886 Cent
Type I Obverse
Repunched 6

220 **1886 Type I. Repunched 6. Snow-4. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (PCGS).** Iridescent brown and tan mingle irresistibly with splashes of red on the satiny, lustrous surfaces of this gem Indian cent. Repunching plain at the 6 in the date. A curious variety considered by some to be a Small 6 over Large 6 variety, though Snow addresses the subject in a tentative manner by noting "repunching visible inside upper and lower loops of the 6. A smaller knob of the 6 can be seen on top of a larger one. Possibly a punch defect." An attractive gem in all regards.

On the Type I cents of the date, the tip of the lowest feather in the headdress points between the I and C in America.

Obverse 8: As described above.

Reverse H: Shield points connected to dentils, otherwise without salient points of interest.

221 **1886 Type I. MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Highly lustrous satiny red surfaces show a scattering of tiny flecks under low magnification, though the unaided eye sees a coin that generally bespeaks a higher grade.

Obverse: Tiny raised die lines on the Indian's portrait and at LIBERTY.

Reverse: Shield points and olive leaf connected to dentils by die roughness, a patch of die lines diagonally through NE in ONE.

Choice Mint State 1886 Indian 1¢
Misplaced Digits
Type II Obverse

222 **1886 Type II. Misplaced Digits, 88 in Dentils. Snow-8; FND-003. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous red that verges on pale gold. Somewhat prooflike in appearance. An attractive Type II example of the date, the Type II pieces being considerably more elusive than their Type I counterparts. Variety with the tops of two 8s in the dentils below the date. Scarce and important, and certain to see eager pursuit from specialists.

Type II cents of the date show the tip of the lowest feather in the headdress pointing between the C and A in AMERICA.

Obverse 11: As described above.

Reverse U: Horizontal die lines above the shield, diagonal die lines crisscross at the center through the denomination and other points.

223 **1886 Type II. MS-63 RB (PCGS).** Lustrous brown with strong red highlights in the protected areas. A few light flecks are seen, but still an attractive example of this scarce type.

Obverse: Faint crack at the tops of ITED STATES.

Reverse: Shield points attached to dentils by die roughness.

1887 Doubled Die Obverse Cent

224 **1887 Doubled Die Obverse. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-009.5; 1-O-V. Rarity-8. AU-50 (ANACS).** Medium brown surfaces devoid of all but a few faint, trivial marks. Doubling strong at OF AMERICA, faint but present at RTY on the headdress. A rare variety, the present coin being high in the *Condition Census* for the variety even though it is *just* AU-50; only a few Mint State pieces are known. Another rarity from the Larry Steve Collection that will almost assuredly draw strong bidding interest.

Obverse 7: As described above, also faint crack through date numerals.

Reverse G: Noticeable die cracks through left and right sides of wreath.

Rare 1888/7 Overdate Indian Cent
Discovered by Jim Ruddy

225 **1888/7 Overdate. The "Ruddy" variety. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-010; Breen-2012. Rarity-6. VF-20 (PCGS).** Medium brown with some lighter areas on the high points. A prominent dash at the bottom of the 8 and a tiny point at the upper left of that numeral are the remnants of the underlying 7. Called the "Ruddy" variety owing to its discovery by Jim Ruddy (whose partnership with Q David Bowers, as Bowers and Ruddy, became the first coin dealership in America to register numismatic retail sales of over one million dollars in a business year!). The latest edition of the Snow reference (as yet unpublished, but very close to seeing the light of day) lists 23 examples of the date in grades from MS-64 RB down to VG and lower (any of which, from finest to least among them, would easily gratify virtually any Indian cent specialist involved in the hunt for a specimen). Only eight examples on that list are finer than the present coin, with six of the coins at the VF level; nine others are listed at Fine or lower in quality. You won't have many opportunities to purchase an example of this rare overdate, at least probably not in the immediate future. With that in mind, the Larry Steve coin, offered here, becomes all the more enticing. Bid or pass, the decision is yours, of course, but *bidding* seems to be the prudent course of action here! Accompanied by an *Eagle Eye Photo Seal* certificate.

Obverse 1: As described above, also die cud at rim above TED.

Reverse A: Shield points and olive leaf attached to dentils by die roughness.

Another 1888/7 Overdate Cent

226 **1888/7 Overdate. The "Fivaz" variety. Snow-2; FND-002; FS1-010.7. Rarity-7. MS-63 RB (ANACS).** Satiny, lustrous red with warmer highlights in the recessed areas. A noticeable fleck is seen at the tip of the second feather in the headdress. A double treat for collectors; not only is this variety an overdate, but the base (or upper serif) of an errant 1 protrudes from the first pearl into the field above the point of the Indian's bust! Definite numeral remnants in the upper loops of all three 8s in the date, with a portion of the upright of the underlying 7 within the final 8. Called the "Fivaz" variety in deference to its discoverer, Bill Fivaz (coauthor of the *Cherrypickers' Guide* along with J.T. Stanton), and a familiar name in numismatics to just about everyone who collects today. Rare, attractive, desirable—what more could any collector seek?

Obverse 2: As described above.

Reverse B: Early state, die roughness connects the corners of the shield to the dentils, no cracks formed yet.

227 **1889 Doubled Die Reverse. Snow-11; FND-002; 2-R-III. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (ANACS).** Frosty deep red with violet highlights and strong underlying lustre. Reverse doubling at the top of the shield and at various places around the wreath. A pleasing gem example of a popular variety.

Obverse 11: Faint die line from top of 1 to Indian's chin.

Reverse L: As described above.

Choice Mint State 1889 Cent
Misaligned Reverse Clash Marks Rarity

228 **1889 Misaligned Reverse Clash Marks. Snow-31. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (ANACS).** A deep red beauty (for the assigned grade, of course) with intense lustre and violet highlights, and with a goodly dose of eye appeal thrown in for good measure. A rare variety that was first described by Larry Steve, and perhaps best described by Rick Snow in his reference when he noted "The dentils from an off-center clash of an obverse Indian cent die shows from the center of the O in ONE to the top of the E in CENT.

Another set of lighter clashes are visible between the NE in ONE." An exciting variety, one that is too "new" yet to assign a rarity rating, but we imagine it will remain quite scarce even with untold numbers of Indian cent collectors actively involved in the search for listed (and unlisted) varieties.

Obverse 31: Heavy diagonal die lines above RIC at dentils.

Reverse AE: As described above.

Rare 1890 Quadrupled Die Obverse Cent
Gem Mint State

229 **1890 Quadrupled Die Obverse. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-010.85; 1-O-II. Rarity-7. MS-65 RD (NGC).** A satiny red gem with strong lustre and rich iridescent orange highlights. Nicely struck. Some light flecks are noted on both sides, but the overall appeal is engaging enough that one can readily forgive these tiny shortcomings. Regarding this variety, Snow related that "at least four, possibly more distinct steps can be seen on the tops and all horizontal elements of all the letters in the legend. Also some portrait elements show multiple impressions." Late die state, two tiny nubs inside upper loop of 0 in date (earliest die state shows repunching at bottoms of 890. Nice; take a look and you'll agree!

Obverse 3: As described above.

Reverse C: No features that warrant individual mention.

230 **1890 Off-center Clashed Reverse. Snow-16. Rarity-unassigned. MS-63 RB (ANACS).** Frosty medium iridescent blue on satiny red surfaces. A pleasing example of the grade in all respects. Perhaps the finest known example of the variety to yet come to light. A spectacular variety, discovered by Larry Steve and described by Rick Snow in the upcoming update of his reference, noting that a "wide off-center clash from the dentils of another die is visible in the center of the coin between the N in ONE and the EN in CENT. Shield points connected to dentils. Olive leaf connected to the dentils by a rough area." A pretty coin combined with a rare and elusive variety.

Obverse 18: Tiny die anomaly atop dentil immediately below 0 in date (the top of an errant numeral?).

Reverse R: As described above.

231 **1891 Misplaced Digits. Snow-7; FND-003. Rarity-unassigned. MS-63 RB (ANACS).** Lustrous deep orange red with deeper highlights on the high points. A lovely coin in all regards, one that is sharply struck from lightly clashed dies. Tops of a 9 and 1 seen in the dentils below the date. Another scarce and desirable Indian cent variety discovered by Larry Steve. In fact, this attractive piece was the *plate coin* in the Steve-Flynn reference, a fact that makes it that much more desirable! You'll like this one, especially within the context of the assigned grade.

Obverse 19: As described above.

Reverse K: No die recognition points of note.

Choice Mint State 1892 Snow-1 Cent
The Snow and Steve-Flynn Plate Coin

232 **1892 Repunched 189, Doubled Die Reverse. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-010.9; 1-R-II. Rarity-6. MS-63 RB (ANACS).** Deep and lustrous chocolate brown with bright red highlights. A dual treat for the variety specialist, with bold repunching at the 8 and 9, less so at the 1, and with minor doubling in the leaf veins at the right of the reverse wreath. Regarding the date, Snow notes "There is a die line in the 2 which could be mistaken for a 1 underdigit, but it is only a defect in the digit punch." Another Larry Steve Collection coin that served double duty, being the *plate coin* for both the Snow and the Steve-Flynn references.

Obverse 4: As described above.

Reverse E: As noted.

233 **1893 Repunched 893. Snow-2; FND-002. Rarity-5. MS-64 RD (NGC).** Frosty fiery red and gold surfaces show intense lustre and equally stirring eye appeal. Simply a gorgeous coin for the grade. The popular variety with repunching present at 893. In addition, a group of heavy die lines crisscross the field around the date as well. A pretty coin that stands on its own merits.

Obverse 3: As described above.

Reverse C: Die crack from rim at 5:00 upward through arrow heads, olive leaf joined to dentils by tiny flaw.

Impressive Gem Uncirculated 1894/1894 Cent
Early Die State

(2x photo)

234 **1894 Repunched Date. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-011. Rarity-6. MS-65 RD (ANACS).** Frosty golden red with strong lustre and a hint of bright violet on the high points. A beautiful cent that definitely "makes the grade" where eye appeal and physical attributes are concerned. Boldly repunched date numerals make for one of the more spectacular varieties in the Indian cent series—there is no subtlety here! From an early die state, with a raised die line from the rim just left of the 1 through the U in UNITED. A splendid coin for the grade, and an important example of the variety as well.

Obverse 3: As described above.

Reverse C: Numerous raised die lines around the denomination and the bottom of the wreath, die crack from rim at 11:00, downward through the wreath to the 9:00 position.

235 **1895 Repunched 895. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-011.3. Rarity-6. MS-65 RD (PCGS).** Blazing golden red with an abundance of cartwheel lustre and praiseworthy aesthetic appeal. Struck from lightly clashed dies. Bold repunching in the loops of the 8, 9, and 5. A pleasing gem Mint State example of the date and variety.

Obverse 5: As described above.

Reverse E: Shield points attached to dentils by die roughness, faint crack from dentils right of shield to tip of wreath below.

236 **1895 Triple-punched 895. Snow-2; FND-002. Rarity-6 MS-65 RB (NGC).** Strong red background with pleasing brown and violet on the high points. An attractive gem by all accounts. Repunching noted at the 8 and 9, much more noticeable at the 5 (which shows definite signs of triple punching). The Steve-Flynn reference notes that "this variety has greater interest than the preceding (FND-001/Snow-1) due to the distinctive repunching on the 5. It is also much tougher to find." A pleasing example of a "tough" variety.

Obverse 6: As described above.

Reverse F: Raised horizontal line atop upright of N in CENT.

237 **1896 Repunched 6. Snow-1; FND-001. Rarity-6. MS-63 RB (PCGS).** Flashy pale red with rose highlights on the obverse, deeper golden red on the reverse. The scarce variety with broadly repunched 6 in date, called "a bit elusive" in the Steve-Flynn reference. An attractive coin for the grade.

Obverse 5: As described above.

Reverse E: No particular salient features.

Dramatic 1897 Misplaced Digit Rarity
Snow-1, Numeral 1 in Neck

238 **1897 Misplaced Digit, 1 in Neck. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-011.5. Rarity-7. MS-64 RB (ANACS).** A satiny background of lustrous red supports pale violet iridescent highlights. The rare and elusive variety with the base of an errant 1 protruding boldly from the Indian's neck just above the first pearl on her necklace. Discovered by Jack Beymer. As noted in the Steve-Flynn reference, "This variety is very much in demand. The misplaced 1 in the neck is quite distinct. As with most varieties, the more dramatic, the greater the interest." This *is* a dramatic variety, hence we expect great interest!

Obverse 3: As described above.

Reverse C: Olive leaf attached to dentils by die roughness.

Gem Uncirculated 1898 Cent
Repunched 8, Misplaced 9

239 **1898 Repunched 8, Misplaced 9 in Dentils. Snow-25; FND-001. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RD (ANACS).** A satiny blazing golden red gem, and an enticing cent despite a tiny fleck at the top of Liberty's cheek. Repunching shows inside the upper loop of the 8, and the top of a misplaced 9 protrudes from the dentils below the 9 in the date. A truly fine representative specimen of an elusive variety.

Obverse 27: As described above, plus die lines within ITED ST, another from upper side of headdress to second S in STATES, other prominent lines above IC, diagonal line from L to I in LIBERTY, another at RT.

Reverse AB: Faint clash marks, upper right corner of shield attached to dentils by die roughness.

240 **1899 Repunched Date. Snow-1; FND-001; FS1-011.7. Rarity-5. MS-66 RB (ANACS).** A highly lustrous gem Mint State coin with rich red and gold highlights around deeper golden centers. All date numerals repunched, boldly so at the 899. A gorgeous Indian cent blessed with an abundance of eye appeal, and a very scarce variety as well.

Obverse 3: As described above, also faint die line from dentils across TES.

Reverse D: Light die crack from dentils at 6:00 to bow above.

Gem Mint State 1900 Cent
Repunched 90
The Snow Plate Coin

241 **1900 Repunched 90. Snow-4. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (ANACS).** Highly lustrous frosty red surfaces show a few light flecks, but the overall appeal is still substantial. Repunching plain at 9 and 0 in date, die anomaly atop dentils below 9. The Snow *plate coin,* and special as such.

Obverse 7: As described above. Numerous raised die lines grace the Indian's portrait.

Reverse G: "Spike-like die polish inside the wreath at the knot." (A stray off-center internal clash mark? This "spike-like die polish" seems to be 3-D and resembles dentils to the present writer [FVV]).

242 **1901 Repunched 1. Snow-1. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (ANACS).** A bright and lustrous red cent with a few light flecks and with a natural planchet flaw, as struck, at the dentils at 1:00; the reverse is a pleasing blend of red and violet. Base of second 1 in date broadly repunched. A nice coin for the grade.

Obverse 8: As described above.

Reverse H: Shield points attached to dentils by die roughness. Also, a distinct raised die line crosses the interior of the loop in the bow.

243 **1902 Die Gouge at Eye. Snow-4. Rarity-unassigned. MS-63 RB (ANACS).** A satiny mix of red, gold, and blue iridescence on lustrous surfaces. A prominent gouge at the eye of Liberty is plainly evident to the unaided eye on this variety discovered by Brian Greer. An attractive example of a variety that has not been located in any great quantities since its first discovery; we suspect the present coin is among the finest known examples of the variety in collector hands.

Obverse 8: As described above.

Reverse H: Shield points connected to dentils by die roughness.

244 **1903 Misplaced digits, 903 in Dentils. Snow-17. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RD (ANACS).** A lustrous red cent that pushes the gem category where eye appeal is concerned. Snow described this elusive variety as "The top of a 3 is visible in the dentils between the 0 and 3. The top of a 0 extends to the top of the dentil slightly left of the 0 in the date. A 9 may be visible in the dentils just left of the 9 in the date." Choice in all respects.

Obverse 19: As described above.

Reverse S: Right shield point attached to dentils by die roughness.

245 **1904 Repunched 904. Snow-1. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (NGC).** Satiny golden red with strong lustre and some deeper highlights on the high points. Repunching plain at 904 in date, mainly at the lower right side of the 9 and 0, and within the upper section of the 4. An attractive and warm gem example of the date and variety, pleasing in all respects and worthy of animated bidding activity.

Obverse 2: As described above.

Reverse B: Die crack from rim at 9:30 to inner edge of wreath; it appears to have every intention of moving across the field to the O in ONE—perhaps this later die state exists?

246 **1905 Repunched 9. Snow-8. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RB (ANACS).** Highly lustrous bright and deep red, a coin that makes one wonder where "RB" leaves off and "RD" begins! Toning fleck on rim above R in AMERICA. Struck from lightly clashed dies. Repunching plainest at bottom of upper loop of 9. As nice as the grade implies, so bid with confidence.

Obverse 9: As described above.

Reverse I: Right shield point attached to dentil by die roughness, die crack upward from rim at 5:00 through the right side of the wreath to about the 4:00 position.

Choice Uncirculated 1906 Cent
The Snow-2 Plate Coin

247 **1906 Repunched 6. Snow-2. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RB (ANACS).** A satiny red and brown Indian cent with strong lustre

and equally impressive aesthetic appeal, especially for the assigned grade. The obverse is chiefly red, while the reverse displays a lovely woodgrain effect. Repunching plain within the upper loop of the 6. Of further note, the present coin is the *Snow plate coin,* making for an added attraction where this lovely specimen is concerned. Definitely choice for the grade.

Obverse 3: As described above. A small diagonal die line juts from the dentils above the final A in AMERICA, nearly touching the top of that letter before fading into the field.

Reverse C: A doubled, distended dentil extends into the field at 11:00.

248 **1907 Repunched 90. Snow-2; FND-002. Rarity-6. MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Frosty red with a deep, warm orange glow that adds a world of appeal to this satiny beauty. A few faint specks are noted under low magnification, but the overall quality easily overshadows them in the scheme of things. Strong repunching visible in the lower portions of the 9 and 0. A choice coin that bespeaks a finer grade to the unaided eye.

Obverse 3: As described above.

Reverse C: Devoid of salient features.

249 **1908 Repunched 9. Snow-1. Rarity-unassigned. MS-63 RB (ANACS).** Frosty red in the protected areas, deeper red and tan on the high points. A scattering of faint flecks is seen under low magnification. Repunching at the upper side of the ball of the 9 and at the bottom side of that numeral suggests triple punching of the date. A sharp and agreeable example of the date and variety.

Obverse 3: As described above.

Reverse C: Shield points attached to dentils by die roughness.

250 **1908-S Repunched Mintmark. Snow-1a; FND-001; RPM-1. Rarity-5. AU-58 (ANACS).** Splashes of deep red on satiny medium tan surfaces make for an attractive representative of the date and grade. From our nation's first year of branch mint small cent coinage. Repunching shows inside the upper curve of the S. Currently a variety that has yet to "arrive" with collectors, but one which no doubt will gain in popularity as time passes.

Obverse 1: Faint die line connects top of first T in STATES to dentil.

Reverse A: Information at Snow-1 (both 1a and 1b) notes that the left edge of the mintmark is over the *center* of a dentil. On the present specimen, the left edge of the mintmark is over the space *between* two dentils; could there be another minor variety represented herein?

251 **1908-S Repunched Mintmark. Snow-unlisted. Rarity-unassigned. MS-64 RD (PCGS).** A blazingly bright golden red specimen, a coin that balances outstanding lustre with strong physical character. Some faint, attractive woodgrain detail is noted. Careful examination reveals repunching, perhaps as many as three or more times, within the loops of the S mintmark. Specialists may disagree on the degree of repunching this particular mintmark displays, but all will be in accord with the overall beauty of the present coin. Just one of the nearly countless *opportunities* presented in the Larry Steve Collection.

Obverse: No outstanding features.

Reverse: As noted above, tips of shield points attached to dentils by die roughness.

252 **1909 Large L over Small L. Snow-1; FND-001; 1-O-III. Rarity-unassigned. MS-65 RD (PCGS).** Bright and frosty red with a nuance of rose iridescence and strong cartwheel lustre. A speckling of tiny flecks can be seen under low magnification, but they are mostly kept to the obverse. The Repunched L or "Large L over Small L" variety, about which Snow's reference notes: "Many dies show the designer's initial doubled. This is a feature that was created on the master die, transferred to a hub and subsequently to numerous dies." He further describes the variety as: "Design hub doubling with the doubling most visible at the designer's initial. Looks like a Large L over a Small L." A definite gem specimen of an exciting variety from the final year of the Indian cent series.

Obverse 1: As described above.

Reverse A: Faint die crack downward from rim at 1:00 to edge of wreath, another from the edge at 3:00, across the field to outer edge of wreath.

Key Date 1909-S Indian Cent
Final Larry Steve Offering

253 **1909-S MS-64 RD (PCGS).** A bright and lustrous example of the lowest mintage date in the entire Indian cent series (1859-1909), one that is always in demand in *all* grades, from Good or so right up the ladder to choice and gem Mint State coins. Some scattered flecks are noted, and the remnants of an old fingerprint can be seen on the reverse. No varieties are reported for this date, so what we present here is simply an attractive example of a key date branch mint Indian cent, a seemingly fitting ending to our offering of the Larry Steve Collection.

Obverse 1: No special features.

Reverse A: No special features.

SMALL CENTS

Beyond our offering of the Larry Steve Collection, many desirable small cents await! *Two* specimens of the rare 1856 Flying Eagle cent lead off, including an impressive gem specimen, with examples of the popular 1909-S V.D.B. key highlighting the Lincoln cents.

Celebrated 1856 Flying Eagle Cent
Gem Proof-65 Example

(2x photo)

254 1856 Flying Eagle. Breen "Reverse D." Proof-65 (PCGS). A splendid example having frosty devices and slightly reflective fields (as is characteristic of virtually all copper-nickel Proofs seen). The surfaces are about 20% brilliant fading to tan. Blushes of pink and lilac add to the aesthetic affect. Most design features are sharp, save for the eagle's claws.

Although the 1856 Flying Eagle cent is technically a pattern, the design was adopted for circulation in 1857, and over the decades the 1856 has come to be collected with the regular-issue 1857 and 1858 Flying Eagle varieties. The popularity of the issue is due largely to its minuscule mintage, an estimated 2,000 pieces (per the *Guide Book*), by far the lowest production figure of any date in the small cent series. The acquisition of an example is a landmark event for any collector, especially for examples preserved this beautifully.

The obverse motif was adapted from the Flying Eagle featured on Christian Gobrecht's silver dollars of 1836 through 1839. The reverse wreath is almost identical in style to the gold dollars and three-dollar pieces of 1854 and later years. Walter Breen in his *Encyclopedia* recognizes four distinctly different reverses found on Flying Eagle cents of the year; on "Reverse D" the upper fork of each ribbon tip is longer and thicker than the lower fork.

In *More Adventures with Rare Coins*, author Q. David Bowers devoted an entire chapter to this popular American rarity and its significance to several generations of collectors. Briefly told, this rare small cent captured the interest of America's fledgling collecting community at a very early date, certainly by early 1857 when the regular issue Flying Eagle cent made its debut in circulation as a replacement for the familiar large copper cents of 1793-1857. The appearance of the new small cent issue sparked a nationwide interest in saving old coppers directly from circulation, with many people who had never felt a spark of numismatic interest suddenly plucking the old coppers from circulation in an effort to assemble a date set. In fact, within a few years, several numismatic societies were formed, and numismatic books were published. Those who were already ardent collectors of U.S. coins took an instant liking to the Flying Eagle cents of 1856, as well as those of 1857 and 1858, and even the Indian cents of 1859. However, although collectors of that era knew 1856-dated Flying Eagles cents had been produced, virtually no cents of that date were to be found in circulation, thus becoming an object of great desire by as early as 1859, when the marketplace cost of such pieces was $1 each. At *100 times face value*, even the "common man" no doubt looked for 1856-dated small cents in pocket change. After all, a dollar was a good day's pay to the general population in that era. Accordingly, to meet demand, the Mint produced many more 1856-dated Flying Eagle cents, those pieces currently called restrikes, the end result being that today there are probably close to 2,000 1856 Flying Eagles in existence, or as Dave Bowers noted "few enough to make them rare, but enough to make them collectible." Bowers also noted "a good case can be made for the 1856 Flying Eagle cent to be the foremost *popular rarity* of all 19th-century American coins."

Choice Proof 1856 Flying Eagle 1¢

(2x photo)

255 1856 Flying Eagle. Snow-9. Proof-63 (PCGS). Lustrous golden brown surfaces. A choice Proof example of the most desirable of all U.S. small cent issues, bar none! What collector has not dreamed of owning an 1856 Flying Eagle cent? This issue is so popular with collectors that noted numismatic dealer and auctioneer Abe Kosoff considered it good luck to begin each of his sales with an 1856 Flying Eagle cent as the first lot. The popularity of this date is such that no matter where it appears in an auction catalogue, at the beginning, at the end, or anywhere in between, knowledgeable collectors will virtually "sense" the presence of an example of this rare date, and will flock to it. From a late die state of the variety, for which further descriptions are noted below. Worthy of serious bidding competition.

Regarding Snow-9, author Rich Snow noted that the variety is "the most commonly encountered 1856 Flying Eagle. It is unknown when the production of these started." He further noted that "these were probably struck during a long period starting in late 1857 and continuing until 1860." Regarding the die state of the present coin, a heavy die polish line extends from the rim to the top of the I in UNITED. A second die line shows from the eagle's beak diagonally upward through the U to the rim at 9:00, and another crack extends vertically downward to the rim from the tip of the eagle's beak. On the reverse, a die crack extends from the uppermost portion of the left of the wreath to the rim above.

Lustrous MS-65 1858 Cent
Large Letters Obverse

256 **1858 Large Letters. MS-65 (NGC).** Attractive and lustrous. Essentially brilliant with just a whisper of olive-tan. The eagle's plumage is sharp, and most of the wreath details are bold, save for a touch of softness by the ribbon bow. A splendid example suitable for either an outstanding date collection or type set.

Both Large Letters and Small Letters variants are known. The best way to distinguish between the varieties is to look at AM in AMERICA. The letters are merged at their bases in the Large Letters variety, but are clearly separated on the Small Letters type.

257 **1876 MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous red surfaces with just a hint of deeper toning encroaching on the high points, mainly on the reverse wreath. A nice coin overall.

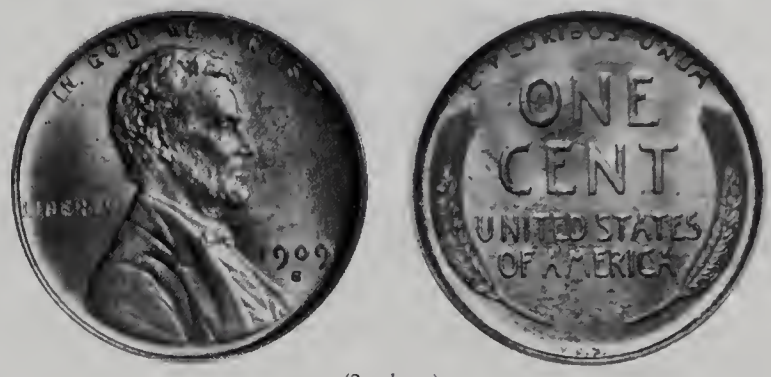
258 **1882 MS-66 RD (PCGS).** A superb gem! The blazing golden red obverse shimmers with splashes of rich rose iridescence, while the bright red reverse boasts an array of rich gold and pale violet highlights. Among the finest examples of the date certified by PCGS, and worthy of pursuit as such. Simply said, a beautiful coin in all respects.

PCGS Population: 19; 2 finer within the grade designation (MS-67 RD finest).

259 **1899 MS-65 RD (PCGS).** A frosty red gem with strong lustre and equally strong eye appeal. A tiny fleck at the lower right edge of the reverse shield is the only blemish of note, and is easily forgiven when the "big picture" is taken into account.

260 **1902 MS-65 RD (PCGS).** Satiny red surfaces display strong cartwheel lustre. A truly lovely Indian cent.

Gem Uncirculated 1909-S V.D.B. Cent



(2x photo)

261 **1909-S V.D.B. MS-65 RB (PCGS).** Highly lustrous and equally satiny surfaces display generous amounts of red with just a nuance of faded lilac on the high points. Sharp and attractive, everything a collector could desire in this most popular of all Lincoln cent issues. The writer (FVV) remembers diligently searching pocket change in the late 1950s and early 1960s for this rarity; none were ever found by yours truly. Other dates in the Lincoln series are rarer and more costly at the gem level, but none are better known or more desirable.

Perennially Popular 1909-S V.D.B.

262 **1909-S V.D.B. MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous, with just a hint of violet on the reverse. Excellent eye appeal will result in many generous bids from the astute specialists.

The 1909-S V.D.B. has been a favorite with coin collectors for decades, a fact attributed to the low mintage of 484,000 pieces and the fact that the V.D.B. reverse is a one-year design type.

263 **1909-S V.D.B. EF-40 (PCGS).** A pleasing deep tan representative of the type and grade, devoid of extraneous marks and choice overall. Arguably the most famous and popular of all small cent issues.

264 **1927-S MS-64 RD (PCGS).** Lustrous and pleasing rosy red surfaces. Somewhat softly struck as common for the issue, but free of serious marks.

Blazing 1936 Proof 1¢

265 **1936 Proof-64 RD (PCGS).** Brilliant format. A bright attractive example having sharp devices and glittering mirror fields. From a scant mintage of just 5,569 Proofs; the lowest production figure for any Proof cent from that date up until the present time. Always a popular issue with specialists.

TWO-CENT PIECES

The obsolete two-cent and three-cent denominations have always enjoyed strong collector support due to their *unusual* nature, but also because of their ability to be collected in superb Mint State and Proof grades. Our selection is of uniform high quality, from two MS-66 RD two cent pieces at the beginning to exceptional gem three-cent silver pieces at the close of this sequence, including an 1868 three-cent silver piece graded an impressive MS-68 by NGC! If Proofs are your primary interest in the three cent series, you will find them in plenty here. With an eye on pleasing toning and sharp strikes, fussy collectors will find much to attract them.

Gem Mint State 1864 Two Cents
Large Motto

266 **1864 Large Motto. MS-66 RD (PCGS).** A lovely red coin that exhibits strong lustre on its satiny surfaces. An impressive gem from the first year of the denomination, nicely struck and about as fine an example of the date as can be found; PCGS has only graded one finer example of the date, making the present coin a sure candidate for inclusion in a "high-end" collection.

PCGS Population: 47; 1 finer within the grade designation.

The obverse and reverse both display a spidery network of die cracks throughout the peripheral legends.

Gem Uncirculated 1865 Two Cents
Fancy 5 Varieties

267 **1865 Fancy 5. MS-66 RD (PCGS).** A frosty pale red-gold gem that exudes intense lustre and strong eye appeal. A nicely struck specimen that is easily worthy of the gem appellation. Only two specimens of the date have been certified finer by PCGS.

NICKEL THREE-CENT PIECES

268 **1872 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A lovely gem with a faint blush of pale rose toning. The fields are somewhat satiny, typical for Proofs of the era and denomination. From a Proof mintage for the date of slightly over 950 pieces, a relatively small mintage in a series where Proof mintages of several thousand were commonplace, especially toward the end of the series.

269 **1876 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A whisper of golden iridescence enhances the tresses and portrait of Miss Liberty on this attractive cameo gem Proof coin.

270 **1878 Proof-67 (ICG).** An impressive and lovely example of this popular Proof-only date. A satiny pale golden beauty laden with impressive aesthetic character, and a definite prize at the assigned grade.

271 **1878 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A Proof-only issue. Satiny motifs display strong lustre and pale rose iridescence. The fields are more reflective than typically seen for this issue, frequently found to be uniformly satiny without the benefit of strong cameo contrast.

272 **1878 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Reflective surfaces and lightly frosted motifs show pale pastel highlights. A nice gem example of a Proof-only date.

Gem Proof 1880 Nickel Three Cents
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

273 **1880 Proof-67 (PCGS).** An impressive gem Proof example of the date. Lightly frosted motifs and modestly mirrored fields form a distinctive soft cameo presentation. Wisps of pale pastel blue and gold create an aura of visual enchantment. As fine as they get where PCGS is concerned; no examples of the date have been graded finer by that group.

PCGS Population: 32; none finer. That figure, 32, represents 31 PCGS-listed coins at the Proof-67 level, and a solitary coin listed as Proof-67 Cameo.

274 **1880 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A beautiful, lustrous Proof with pale pastel highlights and remarkable eye appeal. Glorious!

275 **1880 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Another lovely Proof of the date. Pale golden toning cascades in a lively manner across satiny silver gray surfaces.

276 **1882 Proof-67 (ICG).** A truly splendid gem Proof example of the date, a lovely cameo specimen with strong eye appeal and distinctive contrast between the fields and motifs. Delightful!

277 **1882 Proof-67 (ICG).** A second lovely cameo Proof example of the date, this with a nuance of pale sky blue toning on satiny motifs and mirrored fields.

278 **1883 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A beautifully impressive Proof in all respects; the surfaces are essentially flawless. Pale rose and light sky blue highlights mingle with strong golden toning to create a pleasing palette of spring-like radiance on the cameo surfaces of this delightful gem Proof coin.

279 **1883 Proof-67 (ICG).** What a beauty! Lightly frosted design elements and reflective fields form a strong and impressive cameo contrast. A whisper of pale rose and light gold improves upon the gem appearance. Definitely as nice as the grade implies, and unquestionably worthy of bidder pursuit.

280 **1884 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A delightful gem cameo Proof, though not designated as such on the holder. Lightly frosted motifs and mirrored fields exhibit hints of pale sky blue and rose iridescence.

281 **1884 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A pale golden gem Proof with satiny motifs and mirror fields. If you like your coins lightly and attractively toned, the present coin will not only entice you, but will probably give your bidding abilities a solid workout as well!

282 **1885 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A lovely representative example of the date and grade, this with frosty design elements and reflective mirror fields. Definitely a nice cameo gem Proof nickel three-cent piece.

283 **1886 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A stunning gem example of this popular Proof-only date; 4,290 examples of the date were struck in the Proof format, with no attendant circulation strikes produced. Whispers of pale gold grace the lightly frosted motifs and reflective, somewhat satiny fields. This is gem quality!

284 **1886 Proof-67 (ICG).** Another gorgeous gem example of this desirable Proof-only date. A nuance of pale lilac imparts a warm glow to the surfaces of this lovely coin.

285 **1887 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Glistening silver gray with a touch of frost on the motifs. A modicum of cameo contrast is seen between the frosty motifs and somewhat satiny fields.

286 **1889 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A truly splendid gem Proof from the final year of the series and denomination. Intensely frosted devices and deeply mirrored fields embrace each other in a delightful cameo contrast. PCGS has certified just one Proof of the date at a finer grade level. Simply beautiful!

PCGS Population: 45; 1 finer (Proof-68); none graded finer in any designation.

SILVER THREE-CENT PIECES

All silver three-cent photos are 2x.

287 **1852 MS-66 (NGC).** An aesthetically appealing and sharply struck gem of undeniably gorgeous quality. Wisps of pale golden toning crowd the rims while strong, satiny lustre forms an immensely pleasing backdrop. If extraordinary quality is your *forte*, then the present coin will be amply satisfying in all respects.

Struck from lightly clashed dies that were on the verge of shattering, as attested to by the many die cracks seen on both sides of this frosty gem.

288 **1852 MS-66 (ICG).** Frosty pale golden surfaces show a touch of pale rose. A nice example of the design type.

289 **1862/1 Overdate. MS-64 (PCGS).** A high degree of lustre and delightful golden highlights combine on this enticing choice Mint State coin. Struck from heavily clashed dies.

Diagnostic die crack on obverse from rim upward through the 1 in the date, and from there to the outline of the star above.

Spectacular Gem 1864 Silver 3¢

290 **1864 MS-68 (NGC).** One of the most amazing displays of original color that this cataloguer has seen on a circulation strike silver three-cent piece. Both sides are awash with a vibrant blend of blue, green, russet, gold, and magenta, with lustrous silver surfaces beneath, showing through just enough to increase the visual appeal. A truly striking example from clashed dies, though very well struck with excellent central detail and virtually pristine surfaces. A spectacular gem worthy of the finest collection.

NGC Census: 4; 1 finer (MS-68☆).

291 **1865 Proof-66 (NGC).** A stunning gem example having frosty devices and nicely contrasting reflective fields. Vividly and attractively toned in intermingled shades of blue, gold, and pink. Only a tiny proportion of the 500-piece mintage is preserved this beautifully.

Impressive Gem Mint State 1870 Silver 3¢

292 **1870 MS-66 (PCGS).** An impressive prooflike gem specimen of the date with pale golden orange and rose iridescence on satiny motifs and mildly reflective fields. From a small circulation strike mintage for the date of just 3,000 pieces, which would account for the prooflike reflectivity of the present coin. Nicely struck for the design type, with just a tiny hint of weakness in the horizontal stripes of the obverse shield. Among the finest examples of the date certified by PCGS, with just one specimen achieving a finer grade from that organization. A lovely little gem by all accounts.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-67).

NICKEL FIVE-CENT PIECES

Nickel five-cent pieces, a series which is very much alive and dynamic with the introduction of the new Lewis and Clark pieces into circulation in the near future, are among the most popular coins in American numismatics. For specialists in the nickel series, many fine Proof and Mint State pieces in the Shield and Liberty series await, including the famous key 1885 issue of the latter design type. We are very pleased to offer a *superb* grouping of Buffalo nickels, highlighted by the "Richard M" Collection of Proofs, which is ranked as among the finest all-time collections by the PCGS Set Registry. This collection is uniformly Proof-67 *or finer*, including an incredible Proof-68 specimen of the rare 1916 issue. Two of the most popular die varieties in the series are also included: the 1916 Doubled Die and the 1937-D Three Legged. A feast awaits!

Attractive Gem Proof 1877 Shield 5¢

A Proof-Only Date

293 **1877 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Lightly frosted motifs and mirror fields exhibit a touch of smoky rose iridescence. A gem example of a Proof-only issue; just over 510 examples of the date were struck without attendant circulation strikes. A "must-have" for serious Shield nickel enthusiasts.

In *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, better known to generations of collectors as the *Red Book*, the mintage for this Proof-only date is given as 510+, a number that corresponds (according to Breen in his *Encyclopedia*) with the total number of silver Proof sets sold by the Mint, with the "+" perhaps indicating sales of individual pieces above and beyond those sold in sets.

294 1880 Proof-67 (ICG). Lustrous pale golden surfaces support lightly textured motifs and somewhat reflective fields. Definite traces of an underlying 8 can be seen within the loops of the second 8 in the date.

Breen-2516. "1880 'Dropped 8.' Proofs only. Second 8 first entered very low, then corrected. Thought to have begun life as a double date, but no specimen shows traces of other extra digits. Forms a large minority of Proofs."

295 1882 Proof-67 (ICG). A lovely gem cameo Proof, though the cameo factor is not designated on the holder. Bursts of pale sky blue and warm gold enhance the peripheries of this attractive Shield nickel, struck in the penultimate year of the series. A sharply struck coin, one that is especially appealing if you prefer a touch of pleasing toning on your gem 19th-century coins.

Gem Proof 1883 Shield Nickel

296 1883 Shield. Proof-67 (ICG). A superb gem Proof from the final year of America's first nickel five-cent design type. Lively, fiery lustre leaps from brilliant mirror fields and frosted motifs, while a hint of pale golden iridescence begs for attention in the background. Every bit the gem Proof the holder proclaims it to be!

297 1883 Shield. Proof-67 (ICG). A glistening gem. Wisps of pale blue and rose play on satiny motifs and mirrored fields. A few tiny flecks become apparent under low magnification, but they do little to disturb the appealing nature of this gem Proof Shield nickel.

298 1883 Shield. Proof-66 (PCGS). A highly lustrous and thoroughly appealing gem Proof, especially so for the assigned grade. A nuance of pale rose haunts the frosty motifs and mirrored fields. Lovely in all respects.

299 1883 Shield, Proof-66 (PCGS). Sharply struck with virtually all design features defined to full advantage. The devices are frosty and the fields have a satiny texture characteristic of many nickel Proofs of the era. Appealing pearl gray and champagne iridescence complements both surfaces. Notable for being the final year of issue of the Shield nickel design type.

300 1883 Liberty. With CENTS. Proof-67 (ICG). A splendid array of golden highlights graces the satiny motifs and mirrored fields of this delightful gem. A pleasing gem Proof example of the second Liberty nickel design type of the date, this with CENTS as part of the reverse motifs.

Gem Proof 1885 Liberty 5¢
Among Finest Graded by PCGS

301 1885 Proof-67 (PCGS). A superb gem Proof Liberty nickel with gorgeous pale golden iridescence on satiny motifs and mirror fields; the lively underlying lustre is a definitive factor in the overall beauty of the piece. Proof examples of this key date are more readily found than choice *circulation strikes*, which places unusually strong collector demand on lovely Proofs. Regarding superb gems such as the present coin, PCGS has graded just over a dozen examples at the present level (and some of those may be resubmissions that didn't make the next grade up the ladder), with only one specimen recorded finer. If your collection is accustomed to nothing but the best, then the present coin is absolutely right for you!

PCGS Population: 14; 1 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 finest).

Another Gem Proof 1885 Liberty Nickel

302 1885 Proof-67 (PCGS). Another splendid gem Proof 1885 Liberty nickel, sharply struck, lightly toned, and attractive as can be! Pale silver-blue iridescence graces the frosty motifs and mirrored fields. Every bit the gem, and definitely worthy of strong bidder pursuit.

PCGS Population: 14; 1 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 finest).

303 **1885 AU-55 (PCGS).** A lustrous, sharp, and appealing example of *the* key date in the Liberty nickel series (not counting, of course, the famous 1913 rarity!). Eagerly sought in grades of just Good-4 all the way up to the gem Uncirculated level, with the present choice AU-55 coin no doubt a welcome medium between those grade extremes. Bid with confidence here!

304 **1891 Proof-67 (ICG).** Frosty design elements contrast nicely with mirror fields on this attractive gem Proof Liberty nickel. A sheen of lively pale peach toning graces the essentially perfect surfaces of this lovely coin, adding a dimension of beauty that is nearly irresistible in its appeal.

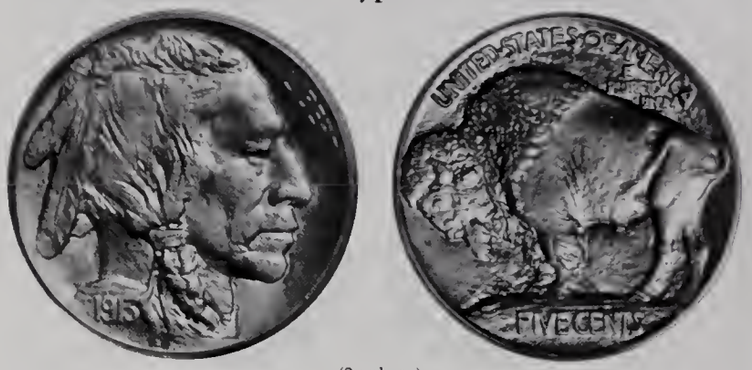
305 **1902 Proof-67 (ICG).** A high degree of lustre is present on the mirror surfaces of this gem Proof Liberty nickel. A touch of golden toning is seen at the centers.

Superb Proof 1910 Liberty Nickel

306 **1910 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A superb gem cameo Proof example of the date, though not designated as such on the holder; this one probably went to PCGS before their adoption of the "cameo" designation. Chiefly brilliant with a nuance of pale rose toning. Extraordinarily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields form an intense cameo contrast. Among the finest examples of the date certified by PCGS; only three other examples of the date have been graded finer by that organization (and none of those have the "cameo" designation). Be advised when you bid that the present coin will set a standard in your collection that other coins will find it difficult to measure up to!

PCGS Population: 31; 3 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 finest).

Gem Matte Proof 1913 Buffalo 5¢
Type I



(2x photo)

307 **1913 Buffalo. Type I. Matte Proof-67 (PCGS).** A gorgeous satiny gem Matte Proof Buffalo nickel from the first year of the series, and the only year of Type I coinage (the type was modified later in the year to eliminate wear problems associated with the Type I or "Buffalo on mound" issue, as here). Bursts of lively golden iridescence enhance the boldly struck motifs of James Earle Fraser's all-American design type. One of 1,520 Proofs of the date struck. Regarding this issue, author David Lange noted in *The Complete Guide to Buffalo Nickels*, "As the first examples of their type, these Proofs were ordered in large numbers. Their survival rate is a bit lower than for other issues, since these coins looked so much like regular pieces to the untrained eye that a number were probably spent. Others may lie unattributed as Proofs in old collections. Gems are elusive." A stellar example of the issue; PCGS has seen fit to certify just one example of the date at a finer level. We expect that "herds" of Buffalo nickel specialists will be paying special attention to this gem Proof beauty, so why not gather your resources and join the hunt!

PCGS Population: 33; 1 finer (Proof-68).

From the Richard M Collection of Proof Buffalo nickels.

Superlative 1913 Proof-67 Buffalo 5¢
Type I

(2x photo)

308 **1913 Buffalo. Type I. Matte Proof-67 (PCGS).** A simply outstanding example that closely approaches perfection technically, and exhibits exceptional eye appeal aesthetically. The devices are sharp and the fields are satiny. Both surfaces are toned in pastel shades of gold, lilac, and pink. Certainly, the presently offered example ranks among the finest of the 1,520 Type I Proof nickels coined during the year.

Proof 1913 Type I nickels are not only scarcities in their own right, but their desirability is enhanced by their one-year design type status.

PCGS Population: 33; 1 finer (Proof-68).

Gem Matte Proof 1913 Buffalo Nickel
Type II

(2x photo)

309 1913 Buffalo. Type II. Matte Proof-67 (PCGS). A superlative gem Proof Buffalo nickel from the first year of the series and the second type of the date. A fiery blend of pale blue, gold, rose, and violet enhances the satiny matte surfaces; the underling lustre glows deeply and warmly, imparting dynamic life to the beautiful toning. One of 1,514 Proofs of the type struck. Specialist David Lange notes "this date is second only to 1916 in rarity among the early Proofs," and he further relates "It's almost a certainty that many of the Proofs struck remained unsold at the end of the year and were melted." Only one example of the date has been graded finer by PCGS, thus highlighting the present coin as a rare and delectable jewel among surviving examples. An enticing coin, one that would be right at home with the Proof-67 Type I Buffalo nickel offered above.

PCGS Population: 38; 1 finer (Proof-68).

From the Richard M Collection of Proof Buffalo nickels.

Desirable Type II 1913 Buffalo 5¢
NGC Certified Proof-67☆

(2x photo)

310 1913 Buffalo. Type II. Matte Proof-67☆ (NGC). A delightful satiny gem having bold devices and virtually flawless fields. Vivid intermingled gold and lilac iridescence enhances the overall aesthetic aspect. A mere 1,514 Proofs of the variety were coined, and the outstanding quality of the present piece is attested not only by NGC's assigned grade, but also by the coveted "☆" designation; only two other NGC Proof-67 examples have received the "☆," with none finer.

NGC Census: 31; 2 finer (Proof-68 finest).

311 1913 Buffalo. Type II. Matte Proof-63. Intermingled coppery gold and lilac complement the sharp satiny devices and steeply basined fields.

312 1913 Buffalo. Type II. MS-66 (PCGS). Sharply struck and fully lustrous. Delightful intermingled pearl gray and gold iridescence. Not a particularly rare issue overall, but certainly very desirable this nicely preserved.

Enticing Gem Proof 1914 Buffalo 5¢

(2x photo)

313 1914 Matte Proof-67 (PCGS). Blazing underlying lustre on satiny surfaces. Evenly dispersed gold and rose iridescence mingles in a warm and pleasing manner. From a Proof mintage for the date of 1,275 pieces; of the 349 Proofs of the date certified thus far by PCGS (April 2003), just seven coins have attained finer grades than the present coin. Another splendid Proof Buffalo nickel from a consignor who definitely has an "eye" for outstanding and remarkable coins!

PCGS Population: 49; 7 finer (Proof-68).

Regarding the finish on 1914 Proof Buffalo nickels, David Lange wrote: "The Philadelphia Mint finally polished its technique for producing Proof nickels starting with this issue. The Proofs of 1914-16 are of far more consistent quality than the 1913 pieces. The texture of these pieces is of an even finer grain, giving them a particularly pleasing satin finish. Except in the case of toned pieces, this surface is revealed to be fairly bright, discounting the notion of these being 'matte' Proofs."

From the Richard M Collection of Proof Buffalo nickels.

Gem MS-66 1914-S Nickel

314 1914-S MS-66 (NGC). Sharply struck and lustrous. The details of the Buffalo's hide, in particular, show excellent definition. Inter-

mingled gold, lilac, and violet add to the aesthetic appeal. Although 3,470,000 examples were originally coined, comparatively few survived in any condition, and Uncirculated specimens always command generous bids. Only a tiny proportion of the total Mint State population could match the exceptional quality offered here.

NGC Census: 13; 3 finer (MS-68 finest).

Impressive Gem Proof 1915 Buffalo 5¢

(2x photo)

315 **1915 Matte Proof-67 (PCGS).** Satiny pale silver-blue surfaces with pastel shades of rose and gold in the protected areas. A bold strike (you can practically count the fleas in the bison's pelt!) and superb lustre add immeasurably to the overall appeal of this desirable gem. The Philadelphia Mint produced just 1,050 Proofs of the date, and "it's likely that some portion of the 1915 mintage remained on hand the following year and was melted," according to author David Lange. Only two examples of the date have received finer grades from PCGS. Rare and beautiful; there is not a lot we can add to those superlatives other than a suggestion to be tenacious in your bidding, lest someone else take this beauty home!

PCGS Population: 34; 2 finer (Proof-68).

From the Richard M Collection of Proof Buffalo nickels.

Incredible Gem Proof 1916 Buffalo 5¢

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

(2x photo)

316 **1916 Matte Proof-68 (PCGS).** Incredible rainbow iridescence radiates outward from the centers of this blazingly lustrous Proof Buffalo nickel. A definite gem by any and all accounts, and a coin that would charm any numismatist regardless of collecting interests. The phrase "Top of the Pops" (the name of an old 1960s era English pop music television show) comes to mind when this writer (FVV) sees a coin as incredible and lovely as the present specimen! One of just 600 Proofs of the date produced, far and away the lowest Proof mintage of the series; indeed, one must go back to the first few years of the Shield nickel series to find a nickel five-cent piece of any design type with a lower Proof mintage. High Condition Census; PCGS has not graded a finer specimen of the date. Definitely the key date among Proof Buffalo nickels, offered here in an unsurpassable grade. As David Lange wrote, "The Proof nickels of 1916 represent the very pinnacle of quality for this coin type." Hopefully designer James Earle Fraser got to see one of his creations equal in quality to the spectacular piece offered here—if he did, he was probably as impressed as today's bidders will surely be when they spend an admiring moment (or longer) examining this gem.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

From the Richard M Collection of Proof Buffalo nickels.

Classic 1916 Doubled Die Obverse 5¢

(2x photo)

317 **1916 Doubled Die Obverse. FS-016. AU-55 (NGC).** Pewter gray toning with delicate champagne highlights. Much original mint lustre can be seen in the fields and other protected areas. The overdate feature shows bold definition, especially at the 916. The 1916 Doubled Die Obverse ranks as one of the most desirable and eagerly sought varieties of the 20th-century. Unlike many other die sinking

errors of the era, very few examples have survived in AU or finer condition; indeed Walter Breen remarked in his *Encyclopedia:* "usually in low grades."

NGC Census: 9; 10 finer (MS-64 finest)

Gem Uncirculated 1917-S Buffalo 5¢
Tied for Finest Graded by NGC

(2x photo)

318 **1917-S MS-66 (NGC).** A high degree of lustre graces satiny, lilac-gray surfaces. Iridescent sky blue and gold gathers in the recessed areas. Sharply struck for the date, with strong definition at the central devices as well as in the peripheral regions. A tiny, well-hidden natural planchet flaw can be found near the bison's ear and horn, easily overlooked even when carefully scrutinized. The present coin is a pleasing exception to David Lange's assertion that "most examples of this date have strong central details but weak peripheral elements." A bold and forceful representative of this popular branch mint issue, one that is among the finest examples of the date certified by NGC. James Earle Fraser's all American design seldom appears finer where the present date is concerned, and we expect strong competition when this nickel crosses the auction block.

NGC Census: 7; none finer.

Satiny MS-64 1917-S Nickel

319 **1917-S MS-64 (PCGS).** Pale champagne iridescence complements the satiny surfaces. A scarce issue in Uncirculated grade, and particularly desirable at the MS-64 level.

High-grade Buffalo nickels appear to have grown tremendously in popularity during the last year or two; one interpretation of this circumstance is the fact that we are now living in the 21st century, and accordingly, early 20th-century issues are regarded, by many, with the same level of enthusiasm that formerly was reserved for high-grade Liberty Seated coins, Capped Bust issues, Dahlonega Mint gold, and such delicacies.

Gem MS-65 1926-D 5¢

(2x photo)

320 **1926-D MS-65 (PCGS).** Warm pewter gray iridescence with blushes and wisps of coppery gold. Most design features are sharp, save for a touch of softness by the Indian's braid and the Buffalo's shoulder. Although 5,638,000 examples were originally coined, only a tiny proportion were set aside at the time of issue, and accordingly gem quality survivors always attract generous bids when they cross the auction block.

Splendid Gem Proof 1936 Buffalo Nickel
Type I, Satin Finish

(2x photo)

321 **1936 Type I. Satin Finish. Proof-68 (PCGS).** "Splendid" and all its synonymous cousins—gorgeous, magnificent, superb, resplendent, dazzling, imposing; we could go on forever—barely convey the full visual impact of this delightful gem Proof Buffalo nickel. Lustrous pale golden surfaces impart a lovely appearance to this gem. One of 4,420 Proofs of the date produced, though that production run was shared by the Type I (Satin Finish, as here) and Type II (Brilliant Finish) styles of the date. A beautiful coin in all respects, struck in the first year of Proof coin production since 1916. Only *one* example of the date has been graded finer by PCGS (and what a spectacular coin that must be to surpass the quality *and* beauty of the present coin!). Rest assured that a successful bid on the present lot brings home one of the finest examples of the issue currently available to today's collecting community.

PCGS Population: 20; 1 finer (Proof-69).

From the Richard M Collection of Proof Buffalo nickels.

Inviting Gem Proof 1936 Buffalo 5¢

Type II, Brilliant Finish

(2x photo)

322 **1936 Type II. Brilliant Finish. Proof-67 (PCGS).** A highly reflective specimen that displays a whisper of faint champagne toning. Boldly struck and aesthetically appealing, a no-questions-asked gem Proof Buffalo nickel by all accounts. As David Lange noted regarding the date: "The demand for 1936 Proofs, especially in the brilliant finish, is tremendous. This issue is significantly scarcer than the 1937 Proofs, however, and gems are in the minority." Of the 4,420 Proofs of the date, it is now thought the mintage was fairly evenly split between the Type I Satin Finish Proofs and the Type II Brilliant Finish Proofs, as offered here. Feeling competitive? Hold your bidding paddle high for this lot, as the competition will be strong and only one bidder goes home with this coin!

From the Richard M Collection of Proof Buffalo nickels.

Enchanting Gem Proof 1937 Buffalo 5¢

Final Proof Issue of the Design Type

(2x photo)

323 **1937 Proof-68 (PCGS).** A gorgeous gem with a hint of pale gold and rose iridescence, aesthetically delightful with deeply mirrored and basined fields that support boldly rendered design motifs. From a Proof mintage for the date of 5,769 pieces, a figure that is large when compared to others of the design type, but minuscule when compared to the Proof quantities produced by the Mint in later years; today, millions upon millions of Proofs are made for each denomination! A lovely coin with very few peers and only one better piece graded by PCGS. This is what *gem* is all about!

PCGS Population: 8; 1 finer (Proof-69).

From the Richard M Collection of Proof Buffalo nickels.

Gem Proof-67 1937 5¢

324 **1937 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A spectacular gem having sharp satiny devices and glittering mirror fields. Just a hint of pale champagne iridescence enhances both the obverse and reverse. A mere 5,769 Proofs were coined during the year, and the presently offered piece ranks among the finest. Seldom offered this nice.

325 **Original roll of 1937 Buffalo nickels,** average grade MS-64, many finer. Our consignor selected one piece at random and submitted it to NGC–it came back MS-66! A quick glance reveals many pieces that are the ready equal to (or finer than) the NGC coin. A great deal for an alert collector. (Total: 40 pieces; 1 NGC certified)

Mint State 1937-D 3-Legged Buffalo 5¢

326 **1937-D 3-Legged. MS-62.** A satiny and lustrous example of one of the most popular of all nickel five-cent issues in American numismatics. Concentric halos of pale gold, rose, and violet spread outward from the centers, adding an aura of enchantment all their own. Some striking weakness noted at the centers, as is often the case for this desirable variety. Choice for the grade, and worthy of strong bidding.

HALF DIMES

The diminutive half dime, struck from 1792 to 1873, includes many interesting challenges for the collector. The following lots feature a variety of desirable half dimes from early issues in very high grade (like the MS-64 (NGC) issue of 1795 that begins things) to a rare Proof striking of 1855 and Mint State specimens of the Liberty Seated design that graced this denomination for most of its existence. Type collectors will find pieces in exceptional states of preservation to add to their high-quality sets. (All half dime photos are 2x.)

Choice Mint State 1795 Half Dime

327 **1795 Flowing Hair, Small Eagle. Logan McCloskey-8, Valentine-5. Rarity-3. MS-64 (NGC).** A high degree of lustre graces rich gunmetal-blue surfaces. Splashes of gold and iridescent rose enhance the overall effect. From the second and final year of Flowing Hair half dime coinage. In 1796, designer Robert Scot redesigned his original Flowing Hair motif, this time producing the Draped Bust and Heraldic Eagle combination. Nicely struck for the issue, with only the barest hint of central weakness on the reverse; the eagle's breast feathers are nearly all complete, and other tiny details are present as well. Some minor planchet adjustment marks are seen on Miss Liberty's profile on the obverse, otherwise the interested bidder will be hard pressed to find blemishes of any consequence. A truly choice coin for the grade, an exemplary example of the date that will see spirited bidding activity.

A faint obverse die crack runs from the rim at 2:00, across the Y of LIBERTY, then across the field, Liberty's portrait, and out through the bottom of her neck, passing through the 7 in the date and then terminating in the dentils below that numeral. Struck from misaligned dies, the rotation here being 270° (when flipped on its vertical axis, the eagle's head points to 2:00 instead of 12:00).

Lovely Mint State 1795 Half Dime

328 **1795 Flowing Hair, Small Eagle. LM-10, V-4. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Frosty deep gray with highlights of amber, gold, and blue, particularly on the reverse. Excellent eye appeal, the toning is very attractive. Clash marks noted on obverse, some softness of strike at eagle's head and upper wing as typical, thin scratch from star 5 to the back of Liberty's head. A desirable high-grade specimen of this type.

Deeply Prooflike 1831 Half Dime

329 **1831 LM-4, V-4. Rarity-2. MS-64 PL.** Deeply mirrored surfaces on both obverse and reverse exhibit exceptionally attractive blue and deep gold toning and peripheral satiny lustre. A fully struck specimen that closely resembles a Proof – which are known to have been struck from these dies – though we believe this to be a reflective prooflike piece due to the slight flatness in some denticles and lack of a raised rim and sharp reeding. The Eliasberg Proof, whose die state was apparently identical, showed similar weakness in the upper wings and neck of the eagle. A tiny planchet chip is noted in the field just above Liberty's bosom, shallow depression at star 12, lint mark at star 13. The eye appeal and overall surface quality are superb. A coin that should be carefully considered for its dramatic visual appeal and considerable prooflike aspects.

Superb Gem 1831 Half Dime

330 **1831 LM-6, V-1. Rarity-1. MS-67 (PCGS).** A frosty jewel, brilliant silver gray with some subtle peripheral toning and remarkable satiny lustre. Some areas of reflectivity are noted in the immaculate fields. Sharply struck throughout, a stunningly pristine and attractive specimen of the type worthy of the finest collection.

PCGS Population: 6, 1 finer (MS-67).

Gem MS-66 1837 Half Dime
Liberty Seated, First Year of Issue

331 **1837 Liberty Seated. Large Date, No Stars. MS-66 (NGC).** Sharply struck and lustrous. Mostly golden brown surfaces with wisps of navy blue at the rims. Coined during the first year of the Seated Liberty design type. One of the nicest examples we've had the opportunity to examine in recent times.

The obverse is similar in style to the silver dollar of the preceding year, having Christian Gobrecht's Seated Liberty motif, without stars. The reverse style, having the denomination in a laurel wreath, remained current through 1859.

Two different date sizes are recognized for 1837 Liberty Seated half dimes; on the Large Date variety, the 1 has a tall peak, while on the Small Date type, the 1 is nearly flat.

332 **1837 No Stars. Large Date. Triple-punched date numerals. MS-64 (PCGS).** A splendid little half dime with strong lustre beneath a mélange of pleasing gray, gold, and pale violet toning. Sharply struck. Tripled date numerals plainly evident — this obverse die was also used to strike the tiny number of Proofs known of the date.

Lovely MS-64 1838 Half Dime

333 **1838 MS-64.** Sharply struck and fully lustrous. The central areas have delicate champagne iridescence, which deepens to a rich golden shade at the borders. Similar to the style of the preceding year, but with 13 stars at the obverse border. Worth a generous bid from a connoisseur of quality coins.

Choice Proof 1855 Half Dime Rarity

334 **1855 Arrows. Proof-64 (PCGS).** Fully brilliant surfaces. The frosty devices contrast nicely with the deep mirror fields. Most design features are sharp, excepting only a few of the obverse stars. Some faint hairlines on both surfaces, noted under magnification, are probably all that prevented PCGS from assigning a considerably higher grade.

Proofs issued prior to 1858 (the first year that Proofs were produced in substantial numbers to accommodate the collecting goals of the small, but growing, cadre of coin collectors) are prized for their rarity, and the 1855 is no exception to the rule. This variety is especially desirable to Proof collectors because the "With Arrows" type was only coined for three years, i.e. 1853-1855. Worth a generous bid from the numismatist who desires to acquire pieces that combine both rarity and outstanding aesthetic appeal.

PCGS Population: 9; 3 finer (Proof-66 finest). Considering the fact that the mintage is estimated at 20 pieces, there is a good chance this population is inaccurate due to resubmissions.

Brilliant 1857-O Half Dime
Gem MS-66 Example

335 **1857-O MS-66 (PCGS).** Brilliant, lustrous, and sharply struck. Delightful in every way! Uncirculated examples of the issue are scarce, and gem-quality pieces are important condition rarities; something attested by the PCGS population data presented below. Here is a prize certain to delight the half dime collector and the type set specialist alike. We expect many generous bids from alert buyers.

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer (MS-67 finest).

Gem MS-66 1859 Half Dime

336 **1859 MS-66 (NGC).** An impressive gem example having frosty devices. The fields have a texture intermediate in character between satiny and prooflike. Deep violet iridescence in the central areas deepens to navy blue at the borders.

Notable for being the last year of issue of the "Laurel Wreath" design type. Beginning in 1860 a new wreath design, modeled by Anthony Paquet, was adopted; something popularly referred to as the "Cereal Wreath" by Harold Newlin and subsequent generations of numismatists.

337 **1859 MS-66 (NGC).** Brilliant silver with frosty devices and excellent eye appeal. Heavy lapping marks on both sides, a remnant of a grinding of the dies in an effort to improve them, such as the removal of clash marks or fine cracks. As a result, some areas of the design are not well struck, but the surfaces show only trivial marks and overall the piece is satiny and very lustrous. Repunched digits in the date, mentioned by Breen as being visible on earlier die states, are no longer visible on this example.

Attractive 1796 Dime

(2x photo)

338 **1796 John Reich-6. Rarity-3. EF-45 (PCGS).** Lustrous golden gray with an abundance of light lilac and light electric blue iridescence. A few stray marks are noted, most obvious of these in the field behind Miss Liberty's middle tresses, though the overall integrity of this attractive dime is not disturbed overmuch. Struck from a shattered obverse die, a noted diagnostic for the JR-6 die combination. A splendid coin for an early U.S. type set, or simply for those who enjoy attractive 18th-century issues.

Extraordinary LDS 1797 JR-1 10¢

Full obverse cud

(2x photo)

339 **1797 JR-1. Late die state. VF-25.** One of the most impressive terminal die states we have encountered on any early American coin. Pleasing pale silver gray with somewhat darker fields, slate gray on the reverse. Tiny void at rim above F of OF on reverse, light handling marks commensurate with grade including a faint vertical scratch in the hair and a tiny nick at the corner of Liberty's mouth noted for future identification. A massive cud at the base of the obverse consumes three points of star 1, all of the date, and a portion of the bust line. A weak area on the reverse at ES of STATES corresponds to the cud, a natural result of the reduced pressure from being struck with less than two complete die faces.

The 1797 JR-1, the 16 star variety which is encountered slightly more frequently than the 13 star JR-2, is usually seen with a die crack along what becomes the top edge of this cud, from the point of star 1 closest to the hair along the tops of 17 and then exiting the bust to the rim. After extensive use (25,261 pieces were struck from the two obverse dies) the die apparently simply gave way in singularly memorable fashion, with the entire date portion of the die breaking off and falling away! While large cuds are known on early American dies, the result of a conspiracy of overuse, poor die steel, and amateur engineering of the screw presses which struck the coins, few are as large as this and we know of no others that result in a com

DIMES

Many very desirable specimens of the dime denomination follow, from the very beginning of the denomination in 1796 up to more modern issues of the 20th century. Our early dimes are a specialist's delight, with an impressive Rarity-8 cud on a 1797 dime and Choice AU specimens of 1801 and the rare 1804 sure to quicken the pulse. Proof dimes from the Luther A. Breck Collection, mostly superb gems with sharp cameo contrast, highlight the Barber series. Connoisseurs of the Liberty Seated and Mercury issues will likewise find objects of great desire here, including rare dates from branch mints such as the 1860-O and the 1921-D.

lacking the date – a key inclusion in any coin's design as per the Mint Act of 1792. The Mint would endeavor to replace a die this badly broken as soon as possible, and the rarity of this terminal die state suggests that they followed this course. This example, recently discovered in New England, is the only piece we have ever seen or recorded, though a single higher grade specimen has been reported to us. We cannot imagine a collection of early U.S. Mint products that would not be enriched by the presence of this nearly unique and fascinating specimen.

The Lovejoy 1800 JR-1 Dime

340 **1800 JR-1. Rarity-4. EF-45 (NGC).** Ideal even silver gray with faint surface toning and highlights of deep olive at the central reverse. A lovely specimen, very nice for the grade, with only minor ticks here and there and a hidden dig at the temple and another above star 13 mentioned for identification of this piece. Bold strike, really a nice looking example of the date or type. Pedigreed to one of the classic sales of early dimes, an added draw for most savvy collectors.

From Stack's sale of the Allen Lovejoy Collection, October 1990, Lot 14. The original lot ticket, as well as Lovejoy's original flip and envelope, accompany this lot.

Choice AU 1801 JR-2 Dime
Among the Finest Known

(2x photo)

341 **1801 JR-2. Rarity-5. AU-58 (NGC).** Lustrous silver gray with rich golden highlights around devices and across the reverse and a splash of blue at the date. Very boldly struck, with impeccable detail on both sides and the usually flat star 4 better defined than often seen. Only trifling marks, faint horizontal scratch under chin noted for future identification. One of the very best of this rare variety, by a long shot the scarcer variety of the two die marriages from this date. The lustre is nearly complete and the eye appeal is superb. Die pits in usual locations in left obverse field and beneath E in AMERICA on reverse, several light reverse die cracks. An important offering for the dime specialist, Condition Census for the variety and far better than usually encountered for the date as well. A coin that could be the centerpiece of an important collection of early American silver coinage.

NGC Census: 3; 1 finer (MS-65). This is (presumably) the finest JR-2 certified by NGC. Though the other two pieces certified as AU-58 and the single finer MS-65 piece did not bear attributions, they are most likely of the more common JR-1 variety.

From Heritage's sale of August 1996, Lot 6940.

Lovely Toned AU 1804 Dime
13 Star Variety

(2x photo)

342 **1804 JR-1. 13 Stars. Rarity-5. AU-53 (NGC).** Concentric toning of deep olive, gold, and deep amber on the obverse, the reverse a more even blend of deep blue and subtle gold. A most attractive specimen of this rarity with lively lustrous surfaces and a sound strike. Several short parallel scratches are noted in the lower right obverse field, one of which crosses the bust line, pinprick dig above Liberty's nose, tiny spot above E of STATES noted for future identification of this important specimen. A rarity in any grade, and in high demand as not only a collectible silver issue of this magic date but also the key date of the early dime sequence. This eye-appealing specimen is **perhaps of Condition Census quality for the date**, with the AU-50 Bareford coin ranked as finest in the JR book, a coin graded before the inflation of the last decade. This specimen comes from the James A. Stack collection, a lesser-known pedigree in the grand scheme but an important one to those familiar with the overall quality of that fine cabinet. Off the market for more than a decade, and now offered to a new generation who have longed for the chance to find this rare dime in superb grade.

NGC Census: 1; none finer. NGC has certified only two pieces of the JR-1 variety beside this piece, in addition to four pieces without attribution.

From Stack's sale of the James A. Stack Collection, January 1990, Lot 12. The original lot ticket accompanies this lot.

Mint State 1814 Dime

343 **1814 JR-3. Rarity-2. MS-64 (NGC).** Lively lustre on even silver gray surfaces. Frosty and attractive, a few minor hairlines in the right obverse field, short scratch over ERI in AMERICA. A well-preserved example of the type with more satiny lustre than usually encountered.

Resplendent Gem 1829 Dime
MS-66 (NGC)

(2x photo)

344 **1829 JR-3. Rarity-4. MS-66 (NGC).** Impressive cartwheel lustre and mint frost on surfaces exhibiting delicate toning of deep gray, olive, rose, and gold. Exceptionally well struck with full detail in the eagle's feathers and shield, an eye-catching specimen on many levels. Careful examination reveals a few minor disturbances in the fields, none significant. An ideal representative of the small planchet type.

NGC Census: 8, none finer (all varieties).

Scarce 1860-O 10¢

345 **1860-O VF-20 (PCGS).** Gunmetal-gray surfaces with delicate blue and violet highlights. Attractive for the grade. Only 40,000 dimes were coined at the New Orleans Mint during the year, and survivors are scarce in all grades. Worth a generous bid from the numismatist eager to complete his date and mintmark set of Liberty Seated dimes.

Gem Cameo Proof 1865 Dime

346 **1865 Proof-67 Cameo (ICG).** Bright and frosty motifs contrast deeply with mirror fields; a whisper of pale gold adds to the immense charm. A lovely gem cameo Proof dime from the last year of Civil War hostilities, one of 500 Proofs of the date produced. Sharp, attractive, and rare; what else could collectors desire in a coin?

Gem Proof 1873 No Arrows 10¢
Close 3

347 **1873 No Arrows. Close 3. Proof-66 (PCGS).** Bursts of satiny gold and pale violet enhance the frosty central devices on the obverse, with deep gunmetal-blue halos toward the rim. The reverse cereal wreath is alive with fiery blasts of gold, rose, and sea green, while deep electric blue dominates the other areas of the surface. A splendid gem that is visually enticing and appealing. Just one example of the date has been graded finer by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67).

Gem Mint State 1876-S Dime

348 **1876-S MS-65 (ICG).** A bright and lustrous gem with somewhat prooflike fields, especially so on the reverse. A nicely struck branch mint issue from our nation's Centennial year.

Tops of first S in STATES and O in OF from broken punches. Many raised die lines can be seen throughout Miss Liberty's garment, especially so around her legs. Tiny raised die lumps, no doubt the result of die rust, can also be seen around her torso and elsewhere on the obverse.

349 **1882 MS-66 (PCGS).** A frosty, highly lustrous gem with a touch of warm golden toning. Pleasing in all respects.

350 **1882 MS-66 (PCGS).** An eye-popping gem with frosty surfaces that glow with a rich blend of gold, pale violet, and natural mint brilliance. Nicely struck for the date, with nearly full head and wreath details (a definite plus for examples of the design type during the 1880s). A no-questions-asked gem!

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Impressive Gem Proof 1884 Dime

351 **1884 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A spectacular gem cameo Proof dime (though the "cameo" designation is not noted on the holder), fully brilliant and delightfully lustrous. Frosted motifs and mirror fields make a bold statement of beauty and quality. One of 875 Proofs of the date produced, and also one of the finest examples of the date certified by PCGS; only *three* 1884 dimes have received finer grades from PCGS, none of those of the "cameo" designation. About as nice as they come for the date, and worthy of strong bidding activity as a result.

PCGS Population: 15; 3 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 finest).

352 **1885 Proof-66 (PCGS).** An outstanding cameo Proof dime (though PCGS has not designated the "cameo" stature of this gem on its holder; no doubt this was graded before they adopted the "cameo" designation). Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields compete heartily for the viewer's eye, with the overall composition quite pleasing in all respects. Add a dash of pale gold and the superlatives accumulate rapidly for this lively, lovely gem!

Superb Gem Proof 1886 Dime
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

353 **1886 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A gorgeous and highly lustrous gem cameo Proof (though again not noted as such on the PCGS holder). Fully brilliant with perhaps a nuance of pale gold at the rims. One of only *five* examples of the date certified as Proof-67 by PCGS, with *none graded finer!* According to the PCGS *Population Report,* only five collectors can experience the pride of ownership that must surely come from owning one of the *finest known* examples of this date. Will you be one of those lucky few?

PCGS Population: 5; none finer in any grade designation.

354 **1886 MS-66 (ICG).** A fully frosty and highly lustrous gem with a dash of pale golden iridescence. A nicely struck example of the date.

355 **1886 MS-65 (NGC).** Satiny, lustrous, and brilliant, a gem in all regards.

356 **1890 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Another stunning cameo Proof that was obviously sent to PCGS before they began recognizing "cameo" details on Proof coins. Bright and lustrous silver surfaces show heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields. A definite gem Proof dime that will no doubt enjoy spirited bidding activity before it finds a new home in a top-notch collection.

Splendid Gem Proof 1892 Barber Dime
None Graded Finer By NGC

357 **1892 Proof-67 (NGC).** A mainly brilliant gem Proof Barber dime with a whisper of gold at the obverse rim, and with enough frost on the devices to warrant reconsideration for a cameo designation. Only a baker's dozen Proof 1892 dimes have been certified so fine by NGC, with no examples graded finer, making the present coin one of the most desirable specimens extant of the issue.

NGC Census: 13; none finer within the grade designation.

Proof Mintage: 1,245.

What are apparently the remnants of another 8 can be seen in the lower loop of the existing 8 in the date; die roughness fills the lower loop of the 9 as well as the upper loop of the 2, while the horizontal base of the 2 is rough and thick, perhaps a result of rust or die chips. This phenomenon is repeated elsewhere in the letters of the legend to a lesser degree.

As a rule, cameo Proof Barber dimes (quarters and half dollars as well) are considerably scarcer than their counterparts without cameo designation. For instance, NGC has certified a combined total of just 16 Proof examples of the present date as CAMEO or ULTRA CAMEO, while 183 specimens of the date have been designated simply as "Proof" by NGC.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

358 **1893 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** Pale sultry champagne highlights blend nicely with frosty mint brilliance on the gorgeous surfaces of this impressive Proof dime. Mainly brilliant centers serve to highlight the outstanding cameo contrast of the devices with the fields.

NGC Census: 3; 5 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 CAM finest).

Proof Mintage: 792.

It is worth noting here that PCGS (as well as NGC, as seen above) has certified far fewer "CAM" and "DCAM" Barber dimes than they have "regular" Proofs

The present coin is a sterling example of this, as PCGS has certified a grand total of just 18 examples of the date in CAM and DCAM grades, while 162 "regular" Proofs have been certified by the firm.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

359 **1894 Proof-65 CAM (PCGS).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields combine with dusky wisps of pale gold to form a visually enchanting Proof Barber dime, especially so for the assigned grade. Not many examples of the date have been certified finer by PCGS, which bolsters the desirability of the present Proof as well.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 CAM finest).

Proof Mintage: 972.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

360 **1895 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** A robust sheen of pale champagne toning graces the mirror fields and enhances the frosty motifs of this delightful gem Proof Barber dime. Among the finest examples of the date certified by PCGS. Sharply struck and visually appealing, and unquestionably worthy of the grade bestowed upon it.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 CAM finest).

Proof Mintage: 880.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

361 **1896 Proof-65 CAM (PCGS).** Pale golden toning on frosty design elements and reflective mirror fields. A handsome gem Proof Barber dime if ever there was one! Indeed, very few examples of the date have been graded finer by PCGS, which certainly supports our "handsome" appellation for the present coin.

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 CAM finest).

Proof Mintage: 762.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1898 Barber 10¢
A Splendid Cameo

362 **1898 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A splendid cameo Proof Barber dime, though the "cameo" designation is not noted on the PCGS holder; no doubt this was graded before that designation received its due from today's collectors. Heavily frosted design elements and mirrored fields enjoy a light, elegant frost of golden iridescence. The eye appeal of the present coin is well above average for the issue, at least in this writer's opinion. While not the *finest* Proof example of the date certified by PCGS—two others have been called Proof-68 by that group—the present coin is well worth any effort it takes to make it a permanent part of your collection!

PCGS Population: 14; 2 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 finest). No examples of the date called "cameo" have been graded finer than the present coin by PCGS.

363 **1898 Proof-66 DCAM (PCGS).** An exemplary gem Proof example of the date, this with splendidly frosted devices that contrast sharply with the deeply mirrored fields. Figure a hint of rich golden iridescence into the picture, and the eye appeal of the present coin is increased dramatically. Truly lovely, and among the finest examples of the date certified by PCGS; they have only graded *one* specimen finer.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 DCAM finest).

Proof Mintage: 735.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

364 **1899 Proof-65 CAM (PCGS).** A glancing blush of pale gold warms the lightly frosted motifs and mirrored fields of this attractive gem Proof Barber dime.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer within the grade designation (Proof-66 CAM finest).

Proof Mintage: 846.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

365 **1901 Proof-65 CAM (PCGS).** Lightly frosted design elements and mirror fields support a pale golden sheen of lively iridescence. The present coin is the only example of the date called Proof-65 CAM by PCGS, while only four other examples of the date have received finer grades. Nice by any standards.

PCGS Population: 1; 4 finer within the grade designation (Proof-66 CAM finest).

Proof Mintage: 813.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

366 **1901 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Breen-3526. Repunched date. A bright and lustrous gem Proof Barber dime. A touch of frostiness on the devices creates a faint but pleasing cameo appearance. Some light

golden toning at the rims adds to the overall appeal of this lively gem. The rare variety with plain repunching noted at the bottoms of 01 in the date; "normal" date Proofs of 1901 are much more common (see below). Don't miss this one!

Breen-3526, "1901 Double 01. Proofs only. Rare. Comprises about 5% of Proofs of this date."

367 **1902 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Chiefly brilliant at the very centers with warm shades of gold and violet iridescence at the rims. Choice for the grade, and oh-so-close to cameo in appearance.

Proof Mintage: 813.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

368 **1904 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Mainly reflective surfaces with a hint of pale rose toning on both sides. Slight cameo contrast is present, though it is nowhere as prevalent as seen on Barber dimes produced in the 19th century. Not many (eight, to be exact) examples of the date have been graded finer by PCGS, making the present coin a worthwhile object of pursuit by those who appreciate solid quality and eye appeal.

369 **1905 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** Warm champagne toning on the obverse and a blazingly brilliant reverse complement each other as nicely as the frosted design elements complement the mirrored fields on this lovely gem. Repunched 5 in date (see below). Only *one* example of the date has been certified finer by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 6; 1 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 CAM finest).

Proof Mintage: 727.

Breen-3543, "Repunched 5. Proofs only. Very scarce. Comprises a minority of Proofs." The present specimen also shows some doubling at the top of the 0, a fact not mentioned in Breen.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

370 **1906 Proof-65 CAM (PCGS).** Lightly frosted motifs and mirror fields show a nuance of pale rose toning. A pleasing coin overall, and among the five finest "CAM" examples of the date certified by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer within the grade designation (Proof-66 CAM finest).

Proof Mintage: 675.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

371 **1906-O MS-65 (PCGS).** A frosty gem Mint State Barber dime from our southernmost mint. A sharply struck gem that easily defines the parameters of the assigned grade. Definite repunching seen in the lower loop of the 6 in the date. Only 10 examples of the date have been graded finer by PCGS.

372 **1907 Proof-65 CAM (PCGS).** Chiefly brilliant with lightly frosted design elements forming a faint but elegant cameo contrast. One of just 575 Proofs of the date produced, the sixth lowest Proof production figure in the Barber dime series. Worth noting is the fact that this is the *only* example of the date called Proof-65 CAM by PCGS, with just one other example graded finer. A great opportunity for an attentive Barber dime enthusiast.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer within the grade designation (Proof-66 CAM finest).

Proof Mintage: 575.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

373 **1909 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous with just a hint of cameo frost on the devices.

Proof Mintage: 650.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Cameo Proof 1911 Dime
Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

374 **1911 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** The satiny portrait of Liberty stands boldly out from the deeply mirrored obverse field, with the same enchanting contrast present between the cereal wreath and the field on the reverse. A nuance of faint gold enhances the overall appeal of this gem Proof Barber dime. One of just 543 Proofs of the date struck; only two other dates in the series have lower Proof mintages than the present date. Technically as nice as they get for the date; PCGS has not certified a finer example. This one looks like a candidate for inclusion in a "finest known" dime or type collection!

PCGS Population: 5; none finer within the grade designation.

Proof Mintage: 543.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Noteworthy Gem Uncirculated 1913-S 10¢
Elusive Key Date

375 **1913-S MS-66 (PCGS).** Frosty, highly lustrous, and aesthetically appealing in all ways. A blaze of lively gold enhances the overall appearance of this gem. An elusive late-date key to the Barber dime series. With a mintage of 510,000 pieces, this date has the third lowest production figure in the entire Barber dime series; only the 1894-S rarity (just 24 minted) and the 1895-O issue (440,000 struck) have lower mintages! A date that is eagerly pursued by collectors of all means, with even examples at just VF or so considered a find for alert Barber dime collectors. Notably, only *two* examples of the date have received finer grades from PCGS. Those who desire gem specimens of the date must often wait *years* before a coin comparable to the quality offered here is available. The good news for Barber dime collectors is that a gem example of the date *is* available here and now, so if you have a yearning to acquire a gem 1913-S Barber dime, now is definitely the time!

PCGS Population: 14; 2 finer within the grade designation (MS-67 finest).

376 **1914 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A lovely gem Proof Barber dime. A sparkling delight with delicate violet iridescence on the obverse that contrasts nicely with the fully brilliant reverse. One of 425 Proofs of the date produced, the lowest Proof mintage figure in the entire Barber dime series.

377 **1914-D MS-65 (PCGS).** A frosty, satiny gem with intense lustre that glows warmly beneath pale gold and sea green iridescence. Definitely a gem to the unaided eye, and a coin that holds up superbly to magnified scrutiny as well. Repunched mintmark variety; the D shows distinctive doubled serifs at the top and bottom (called "No. 102" in *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes* by David Lawrence). Surprisingly, this plentiful issue (more than 11.9 million struck) has yielded only 14 examples of the date graded finer by PCGS, making a MS-65 example a "find" in its own right!

378 **1915 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Frosty motifs and mirror fields form a pleasing cameo contrast (though not marked as such on the holder; this specimen may have been submitted for grading purposes before PCGS began the "CAM" designation). A tiny toning fleck is noted on Miss Liberty's cheek. One of only 450 Proofs of the date struck; only the 1914 Proof Barber dime has a lower production figure (425 coins) than the present date. Definitely possessed of all the qualities necessary to live up to its gem Proof designation.

Proof Mintage: 450.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Impressive MS-66 1921-D Dime

379 **1921-D MS-66 (NGC).** Sharply struck and frosty. Intermingled pearl gray and gold toning, with some wisps and blushes of navy blue. Nice in every way. The 1921-D is a key issue in all grades, and is especially scarce and desirable at the MS-66 level. The specialist would probably have to search long and hard to find another example of such outstanding quality.

NGC Census: 21; 1 finer (MS-67).

Gem 1923-S Dime

380 **1923-S MS-66 (PCGS).** Lustrous and mostly brilliant with hints of pale blue, and scattered flecks of golden brown on the central obverse. The reverse has soft rose highlights. Well struck, with most of the much desired splitting visible between the reverse bands, though it's just short of complete.

Ultimate 1942 Proof Dime
Tied as Finest Certified by NGC

381 **1942 Proof-68 (NGC).** A splendid example, virtually as nice as the day it was made. The obverse has vivid pink and navy blue toning. The reverse is essentially brilliant. Although 22,329 Proofs were coined during the year, only a tiny proportion of the total can match the pinnacle of quality offered here. A prize for the numismatic perfectionist.

NGC Census: 47; none finer.

TWENTY-CENT PIECES

A "double dime" was first suggested by Thomas Jefferson in 1791 as a denomination more in keeping with the decimal system than a fractional "quarter dollar." The denomination would not be issued until the 1870s, and it would not meet with success in commerce. Interestingly, neither of the two pieces to follow are from the most common 1875-S issue. The 1875-CC and 1876 issues are both significant rarities in Mint State, as here offered, with the 1875-CC specimen ranking among the very finest known.

Frosty Gem 1875-CC 20¢

(2x photo)

382 **1875-CC MS-66 (NGC).** Frosty silver gray surfaces boast superb cartwheel lustre. The fields are immaculate, as free from marks as any of this issue, with only a tiny abrasion over the eagle's head noted under extreme magnified scrutiny. Some typical softness of strike is noted at the central reverse, a few tiny specks under the left side of Liberty's rock. A collector of this enigmatic and short-lived series, even with patient waiting, would find it difficult to ever improve upon this specimen – a specialist in the issues of Carson City will likewise be enchanted with this exceptionally preserved and very attractive example.

NGC Census: 4; none finer.

Choice Uncirculated 1876 20¢

383 **1876 MS-64 (NGC).** A bright and lustrous example of the date, boldly struck and aesthetically appealing. One of 14,640 circulation strikes of the date. Definitely choice for the assigned grade.

QUARTER DOLLARS

Our selection of quarter dollars is replete with rarities and pieces in superlative quality. The classic 1796 issue, a one year design type and the first year of issue, is always in demand *in any grade* but especially so when the piece in question is AU-58! Liberty Seated specialists will enjoy the many significant specimens herein: a gem 1842 Large Date, the rare 1853 No Arrows in impressive MS-67 quality, 1857 and 1879 in excellent condition, in addition to an extensive choice of Proofs, highlighted by a truly splendid 1874 Arrows. Proof Barber quarters from the Breck Collection are of uniform high quality, both aesthetically and technically, and another group of Proofs (new to the marketplace after decades!) joins the Breck pieces to make for a memorable event. Indeed, if Proof Barber quarters are an interest this section could be the stuff dreams are made of! Scarce dates in the other two 20th century series – Standing Liberty and Washington designs – are also of significant interest.

Popular 1796 Quarter Dollar Rarity
First of the Denomination
Only Issue of the Design Type

(2x photo)

384 1796 Browning-2. Rarity-3. AU-58 (NGC). Medium steel gray with lilac overtones. A pleasing example of this rare and popular issue, with the only blemishes of note being mint-caused planchet adjustment marks that run diagonally from the rim at 5:00 upward across Liberty's portrait (see photo above). A touch of reverse striking weakness is seen, as is nearly always the case with the quarter dollars of 1796. The only appearance of the Draped Bust obverse coupled with the Small Eagle reverse in the denomination; quarter dollar production was halted in 1796, and when next the denomination was produced, in 1804, the Small Eagle reverse had been replaced by the Heraldic Eagle (also called "Large Eagle") design type. A date that is always in demand as much for its one-year-only type status as for its inherently attractive design. A very desirable coin in a rarely seen state of preservation, and a significant opportunity for those who have patiently awaited their chance to purchase such a nice specimen of the issue.

Lustrous 1806 Quarter

385 1806 B-3. Rarity-1. AU-50 (NGC). Pale silver gray with light toning around devices and lots of satiny peripheral lustre for the assigned grade. Liberty's hair and the eagle's head and neck are softly struck, but the eye appeal remains very good with only some insignificant hairlines to note. An ideal coin for a type collector.

Lustrous 1818 Quarter

386 1818 B-4. Rarity-1. MS-64 (NGC). Very attractive pewter gray with a pale violet tone, rich golden peripheries alive with cartwheel lustre. Choice eye appeal with no marks of consequence, an ideal type coin. Early quarters are among the least collected of early type coins; perhaps this specimen will allow a new specialist to embark on this interesting series.

Brilliant and Frosty 1837 25¢

(2x photo)

387 1837 B-1. Rarity-2. MS-64 (PCGS). Attractive cartwheel lustre on frosty silver gray surfaces. Very subtle obverse toning, pleasing eye appeal, sharp central strike with minor flatness in upper stars. Spidery die crack from star 1 to star 12 along base of bust, another

through STATES. Tiny planchet void above hair is of no consequence, a single tiny nick in left obverse field is noted for accuracy. A beautiful type coin, ideal for a carefully assembled set.

Desirable MS-64 1841 25¢

388 **1841 MS-64 (NGC).** Warm steel gray toning with pale champagne highlights. The devices are frosty and the fields are satiny. Most of the eagle's plumage and claw details are sharp, although a few of the obverse stars show striking softness at their centers. Despite a mintage of 120,000 pieces, the 1841 is scarce in all grades, and is genuinely rare at the MS-64 level; a claim amply supported by the NGC population data listed below. Worth a generous bid from the collector who appreciates important condition rarities.

NGC Census: 9; 4 finer (MS-65 finest).

Gem MS-65 1842 25¢ Rarity
Tied as Finest Certified by NGC

(2x photo)

389 **1842 Large Date. MS-65 (NGC).** A delightful gem, and easily one of the finest extant examples of the variety. The eagle's feathers and claws are sharp, and Miss Liberty's hair and drapery details are bold. Only a few of the obverse stars show striking softness at their centers. The central areas exhibit splendid coppery gold and lilac toning, changing to electric blue at the borders. An important condition rarity, this is certainly one the finest examples we've ever seen, or could ever hope to see.

NGC Census: 2; none finer.

Important 1853 No Arrows 25¢
A Classic Rarity

(2x photo)

390 **1853 No Arrows. MS-67 (NGC).** Satiny pale champagne surfaces display strong lustre and exquisite aesthetic appeal. A sharply struck gem, with even the tiniest design elements crisp and sharp. Boldly repunched 3 in date, a definitive diagnostic for this rarity. Of the 44,200 examples of the date struck for circulation, it is presumed by today's collecting community that much of that mintage was melted later in the year when the new tenor coinage with arrows at date was produced in huge quantities (over 15 million examples for instance from Philadelphia alone). Surviving specimens of this rarity are more apt to be well-circulated and Uncirculated specimens are available only seldom in the numismatic marketplace. The offering of the present coin affords an important opportunity for advanced Liberty Seated quarter dollar specialists, as well as those who desire fine coins for their type collection. The present coin is the only MS-67 certified by NGC, with just one other specimen receiving a finer grade from that organization. Rarity, quality, beauty—they all make their appearance in the present lot. An important specimen of this underappreciated rarity.

NGC Census: 1; 1 finer (MS-68).

391 **1853 Arrows and Rays. MS-61 (NGC).** Fully lustrous. Pearl gray toning at the centers changes to golden brown and navy blue peripherally. Sharply struck with each of the obverse stars showing its divisions. The eagle's feathers and claws are boldly defined, and Miss Liberty's hair and drapery details show strong definition. The 1853 Arrows and Rays owes its popularity and value largely to its status as a one-year design type; it is the only issue in the Liberty Seated quarter series that features a glory or sunburst on the reverse.

Exquisite MS-66 1857 25¢

(2x photo)

392 **1857 MS-66 (PCGS).** A splendid steel gray example exhibiting hints of golden brown. The devices are frosty and the fields are satiny. The strike is typical with minor softness noted at Miss Liberty's forehead and the eagle's right (viewer's left) thigh. Magnification reveals some faint die polish lines in the fields, as made. Certainly one of the finest extant examples of the date, and also a delight from the aesthetic perspective. Despite a generous mintage of 9,644,000 pieces, proportionately very few gem-quality survivors are known; something attested by the PCGS population date below. Worth a generous bid.

PCGS Population: 25; 1 finer (MS-67).

Gem Cameo Proof 1867 Quarter

393 **1867 Proof-65 CAM (PCGS).** Frosty pale golden central motifs sit serenely at the centers of concentric rings of gold, violet, and electric blue. Sharply struck and alive with cameo contrast. Among the finest survivors from a Proof mintage for the date of 625 pieces; PCGS has certified just two specimens at the assigned grade, with only one example given a finer grade by that organization.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer within the grade designation (Proof-66 CAM finest).

Gem Proof 1871 Quarter Dollar

None Graded Finer by PCGS

394 **1871 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A splash of bright silver at the centers gives way to deepening tones of lilac, gunmetal-blue, and sea green toward the rims. A distinct cameo contrast is present, although at the time of issuance of this "first generation" PCGS holder, the "cameo" designation was not in use. Among the finest known survivors from a Proof mintage of 960 pieces for the date.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer within the grade designation..

Choice Mint State 1872 25¢

395 **1872 MS-64 (NGC).** Lively cartwheel lustre and some reflectivity in the fields, deep gray toning with pale green and gold highlights on the reverse. The reverse is exceptionally lustrous for the grade. Very well struck, free of significant marks, dies clashed with the shield boldly impressed over the eagle's shoulder. Attractive and ready to stand tall in a connoisseur's cabinet.

NGC Census: 7, 3 finer (MS-66 finest).

396 **1873 Arrows. MS-63 (NGC).** A satiny delight. Intense cartwheel lustre graces both sides. The obverse is richly toned in pale violet, rose, and gold, with the reverse toning leaning more toward electric blue, rose, and gold. Choice for the grade.

Finest Certified 1874 Arrows 25¢ Proof

(2x photo)

397 1874 Arrows. Proof-67 (NGC). Boldly frosted central obverse device is framed in beautiful rose and pale blue toning, the reverse is an even shade of sea green. Deeply reflective mirrors on both sides, essentially pristine as the grade indicates. Some minor spots are noted near star 12 and 13 but they make no significant impact on the visual appeal. An exceptionally attractive specimen of this two-year type, one of only 700 Proofs struck, worthy of a strong bid.

NGC Census: 6; none finer.

Stunning MS-67 1879 25¢

(2x photo)

398 1879 MS-67 (PCGS). Fully brilliant. The devices are sharp and frosty and the fields have a texture intermediate between satiny and prooflike. Virtually as nice as the day it was made, and clearly treated with great care by its several generations of owners. The 1879 is particularly popular due to its tiny mintage of just 14,700 pieces. Survivors are eagerly sought in all grades, and gem-quality examples will always have a welcome home in the cabinets of advanced specialists.

PCGS Population: 23; 1 finer (MS-68).

Gem Proof 1883 Quarter
None Graded Finer by PCGS

(2x photo)

399 1883 Proof-67 (PCGS). Faint lilac and rich electric blue iridescence on satiny golden gray motifs and matching mirror fields. An impressive gem Proof quarter dollar in all regards. One single glance and the word "superb" will no doubt pop to mind. Put a glass to this beautiful gem, and your first impression is not revised. Further, no examples of the date have been certified finer by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 6; none finer within the designated grade.

400 1883 Proof-65 CAM (NGC). Frosty pale lilac central devices stand out boldly from deeply mirrored golden gray fields. Generous amounts of electric blue and pale violet shimmer gracefully in the recessed areas.

Gem Proof 1883 Quarter

401 **1883 Proof-65.** Pale champagne highlights grace lightly frosted motifs and mirrored fields. A sharp and appealing gem in all respects.

Glittering Proof-66 1885 25¢

402 **1885 Proof-66 (NGC).** Brilliant surfaces exhibit just a whisper of champagne iridescence. Here is a blazing gem having sharp frosty design features which contrast boldly with the mirror fields. Certainly one of the finest survivors from the original Proof mintage of just 930 pieces.

The 1885 is another low mintage date in the quarter dollar series; a mere 14,530 were coined during the year, a figure which includes business strikes as well as Proofs

Gem Uncirculated 1887 Quarter

403 **1887 MS-66 (PCGS).** Frosty pale golden surfaces display a whisper of pale sky blue. A satiny gem survivor from a mintage of just 10,000 circulation strikes of the date. Nicely struck save for a few obverse stars. Somewhat prooflike in the fields, as are many of the circulation strikes of the date. Only four 1887 quarters have received finer grades from PCGS, making the present gem coin all the more enticing to those who seek a quality example of the date.

PCGS Population: 16; 4 finer within the grade designation (MS-67 finest).

404 **1889 MS-65 (PCGS).** A frosty gem with rich gold and pastel highlights on satiny, matte-like surfaces. One of 12,000 circulation strikes of the date produced (the quarter dollar issues of 1879-89 all had low circulation strike mintages owing to the production of immense quantities of Morgan dollars during those years, as mandated by law). Pretty and elusive, and actually "pretty elusive" (pardon the pun) among late-date Liberty Seated quarter issues.

Gem Mint State 1892-S 25¢

Scarce Type I Reverse

(2x photo)

405 **1892-S MS-65 (PCGS).** A satiny, lustrous gem with mingled pale gold, sky blue, and rose iridescence on the obverse; the reverse is somewhat prooflike and bears a touch less toning. Type I reverse, entire right side of E in UNITED uncovered by eagle's wing tip (on the vastly more common Type II reverse, the wing tip covers nearly the entire E, with no visible trace of the middle crossbar and serif of that letter). Among the finest examples of the date certified by PCGS; only two examples have been certified finer by that organization. One to make the Barber quarter specialists sit up and take notice!

PCGS Population: 7; 2 finer within the grade designation (MS-67 finest).

Superb Gem Proof Cameo 1893 Quarter
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

(2x photo)

406 **1893 Proof-67 CAM (PCGS).** A stunning gem cameo Proof quarter dollar from the second year of the design type. Heavily frosted motifs seem to be suspended in midair above the deep and languid mirror fields that surround them. Essentially as nice as a quarter dollar of the date comes; PCGS has certified a Proof of the date as Proof-67 DCAM, but no others have attained a Proof-67 rating of *any* designation. You probably won't find finer quality than the present coin regardless of how hard you search, so don't hesitate to bid heartily when this beauty makes a play for your bidding attention!

PCGS Population: 7; none finer at any grade designation.

The mintages of Proof Barber quarters are mostly between 700 and 900 pieces annually early in the series, with the later dates from 1906 to 1915 enjoying slightly lower average mintages. Of those mintages, few specimens remain preserved as nice as the ones that are offered in this and the coming lots. If Proof Barber quarters (or half dollars) are your interest, the lots in this sale deserve careful attention.

Gem Cameo Proof 1893 Barber 25¢

407 **1893 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** A visually stunning cameo gem Proof. The heavily frosted motifs stand out in stark contrast to the deep mirror fields, all of which exhibit a touch of pale champagne toning. A delight to behold, and undoubtedly a coin that would be a delight to own as well! One of the 10 finest certified examples currently in a PCGS holder, and a worthwhile challenge to your bidding acumen.

PCGS Population: 3; 7 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 CAM finest)

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

408 **1894 Proof-65 CAM (PCGS).** Frosty motifs and mirrored fields show a touch of pale rose and gold iridescence. An impressive gem cameo Proof Barber quarter in all respects.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

409 **1894 MS-64 (NGC).** Sharply struck and frosty. Pale golden toning at the centers deepens to golden brown at the borders. Wisps of gunmetal-blue can be seen at the extreme rims. Here is a lovely specimen suitable for inclusion in either an outstanding date collection or 19th-century type set.

Gem Cameo Proof 1895 Quarter

410 **1895 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** A dusky wisp of pale champagne graces both sides of this attractive gem Proof Barber quarter. The cameo contrast is light but apparent on the obverse, with much heavier contrast on the reverse. Only three Proofs of the date have received higher grade designations from PCGS.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 CAM finest).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Superb Cameo Proof 1896 Quarter

(2x photo)

411 **1896 Proof-68 ULTRA CAM (NGC).** A remarkable specimen exhibiting intense contrast between boldly frosted devices and highly mirrored fields on both sides. Brilliant silver gray, untoned, a remarkable high quality example of the issue. A microscopic planchet chip under S in PLURIBUS identifies this example. Proof type collectors who have yet to find a satisfactory Ultra Cameo specimen of the Barber quarter design will be pleased to have the opportunity to add this coin to their cabinet.

NGC Census: 8; 3 finer (Proof-69 UCAM).

Superb Cameo Proof 1896 Barber 25¢
Finest Graded by NGC

(2x photo)

412 **1896 Proof-67 ULTRA CAM (NGC).** A blazingly beautiful Proof example of the date, one blessed with extraordinary cameo contrast and delightful eye appeal. Just a dusting of pale gold greatly enhances the overall appeal. The *finest certified example of the date* yet graded by NGC, which speaks volumes about the beauty of the present coin. If you are enthralled by *finest known* examples of U.S. coinage, we suggest you bid heartily on the present coin, for you won't locate a finer specimen in a NGC holder, no matter how long and tirelessly you search!

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the grade designation

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem 1897-O Quarter

413 **1897-O MS-65 (PCGS).** Deep smoky grey with highlights of pale blue and champagne smoothly blended across the surfaces. The underlying lustre presents a pearlescent quality. Sharply struck, with minimal surface marks as expected for the grade.

PCGS Population: 6; 6 finer (MS-66 finest).

Splendid Gem Proof 1898 Quarter

(2x photo)

414 **1898 Proof-67 ULTRA CAM (NGC).** Even "splendid" barely pays proper homage to the quality appearance of this lively, lovely gem Proof quarter. The devices are heavily frosted, the fields are deeply mirrored, and pale golden iridescence is at home on both sides of the coin. Among the finest graded by NGC. We paint a pretty picture here, but it falls far short of the overall impact your eyes experience at first sight of this beautiful tribute to the coiner's art. Bid heartily here, for you won't be alone in your pursuit of this gem!

NGC Census: 2; 2 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 ULTRA CAM finest).

From The Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1899 Quarter

415 **1899 Proof-66 (NGC).** A splendid gem Proof with intense electric blue and pale rose iridescence on the obverse. The reverse springs to life with a frosty, pale golden eagle surrounded by intense halos of gold, violet, and electric blue. The present coin (and many other Barber quarters and half dollars in this catalogue) were among the holdings of a Philadelphia family, who obtained the coins directly from the Mint at time of issue (see note below). If you enjoy brightly toned and strictly original Proof Barber coinage, then beware—this one might "knock your eye out!"

The present coin, as well as many of the other splendid high-quality Proof Barber quarters and half dollars offered throughout this catalogue were the property of a Philadelphia family, and have been privately held since the day of issue. In more common parlance, these are "fresh" coins to the numismatic marketplace, coins that have literally not seen the light of day from the time they were purchased from the Mint until our current consignor presented them to us in early 2003. All coins from this collection will be individually designated as such in the pages of our catalogue.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

416 **1899-O MS-64.** Intermingled golden brown and pewter gray iridescence on frosty surfaces. A typical strike exhibiting minor softness at the high points, most prominently at the eagle's claws. Worth a generous bid from the Barber coinage collector and the New Orleans Mint specialist alike.

Lovely Cameo Proof 1900 Quarter

417 **1900 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** Fully brilliant on the obverse, pale golden highlights on the reverse. A delightfully impressive gem that will surely appeal to any and all collectors with an eye for quality. About as nice as they come for the date; PCGS has graded just two examples at a finer level. A pleasing coin that will see a spate of exciting bidding before it takes its rightful place in an advanced Barber quarter cabinet. From the old reverse hub style (see below).

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 CAM finest).

From the old-style reverse hub, with the tips of the eagle's wings even with the tops of the E in UNITED and the ER in AMERICA. A new reverse hub appears in use late in 1900 that has the wing tips extending *beyond* the tops of the cited letters in the legend.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Lovely Gem Proof 1900 Barber 25¢

418 **1900 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields form a distinctive cameo contrast, although such is not noted on the PCGS holder. The obverse image of Liberty is brightly bedecked in pale blue, lilac, and rose, with bursts of intense golden iridescence at the rims. The reverse is splashed with bursts of bright iridescent gold, lilac, royal blue, and indigo. Simply gorgeous!

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Sparkling Gem Cameo Proof 1901 Barber 25¢

Tied for Finest Certified by NGC

(2x photo)

419 **1901 Proof-67 Cam (NGC).** A frosty cameo gem from the first year of the 20th century. The motifs stand boldly out from the surrounding deep mirrors, with a nuance of pale champagne adding balance to the overall appearance. From the new obverse hub style (see below). One of just *three* examples of the date certified at the designated level, with none graded finer. Choice and desirable, and literally as fine as you'll find in an NGC holder, at least for this date!

NGC Census: 3; none finer within the grade designation.

A die artifact that closely resembles the remnants of a former numeral is seen in the lower loop of the 9 in the date.

In 1901, a new obverse hub was placed into use for die production, with the new hub details only changed in a minor way from the old hub features. The key to identification is the inner ribbon at the back of Liberty's neck. On the old hub style, the innermost point of the inner ribbon seems to be slightly longer in appearance, while on the new hub type, as offered here, the two ribbon tips on the innermost ribbon seem to be even in length. Breen makes note of this fact in his *Encyclopedia*.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

420 **1902 Proof-64 CAM (PCGS).** Chiefly brilliant with a pale golden tint on both sides, and with modest cameo contrast on the obverse and heavier contrast present on the reverse. Evidently a difficult date to find with *any* cameo contrast; PCGS has only certified two examples of the date at the present grade level, and two examples of the date at finer grades.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 CAM finest).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1903 Barber 25¢

421 **1903 Proof-66 (NGC).** Bright and lustrous on the obverse with faint golden tones on the reverse. Frosty motifs and mirrored fields. From a heavily polished obverse die, with Liberty's head practically "severed" from her neck due to the polishing (it makes for an intriguing look). On a "cameo scale" of 1 to 10 (with 1 the lowest), the present coin is easily a 7 or 8, especially for the date, though the cameo contrast is not noted on the holder. A delicate visual morsel for an alert Barber quarter enthusiast.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Spectacular MS-66 1903-O 25¢

Among the Finest Extant

(2x photo)

422 **1903-O MS-66 (PCGS).** A simply superlative example and a great condition rarity at the grade level. Fully lustrous and attractively toned in intermingled shades of gold and pewter gray. Hints of blue can be seen on the obverse. Most design features are sharp save for the eagle's claws, which are a trifle soft. We expect many generous bids from the collector who appreciates Condition Census quality.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-67).

Gem Proof 1904 Quarter

423 **1904 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Pale champagne highlights on lightly frosted motifs and mirrored fields, with a good deal of untoned brilliance at the reverse center. Sharp and pleasing, nearly the epitome of Proof Barber quarter quality.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Exemplary Proof 1905 Quarter
Among the Finest Known

(2x photo)

424 **1905 Proof-68 (NGC).** Impeccable deep mirrors exhibit lovely toning, orange and rose with blue and violet peripheries on the obverse, brilliant silver gray with subtle peripheral toning on the reverse. A pristine specimen, as sharp and attractive as the day it left the Mint, an exceptional specimen of the date and type. Essentially flawless and worthy of a place in any fine cabinet.

NGC Census: 4; none finer.

Richly Toned 1905 Gem Proof 25¢

(2x photo)

425 **1905 Proof-67 (NGC).** A superlative gem with enticing bull's eye toning. A trace of mint brilliance at the frosty center gives way to concentric halos of gold, violet, and rich electric blue toward the rims. The motifs are frosty and the fields are mirrored, though NGC did not designate this coin as a cameo.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Gem Proof-66 1905 Quarter

426 **1905 Proof-66 (NGC).** Essentially brilliant, with just a hint of gold iridescence. Sharply struck, with virtually all design features defined to full advantage. A mere 727 Proof quarters were coined during the year. Not easy to find so nicely preserved.

Superb Gem Proof 1906 Quarter
None Graded Finer NGC

(2x photo)

427 **1906 Proof-68 (NGC).** A superb gem in all respects. The surfaces are immaculate, and the eye appeal is extraordinary. The obverse is mildly toned in pale electric blue with some mint brilliance at the center, while the reverse exhibits some mint brilliance in the eagle's plumage. Splashes of rich violet and pale electric blue gather at the reverse rim. As fine a Barber quarter of the date that is available to today's collecting community and highly important as such.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within the grade designation.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Brilliant Gem Proof 1906 Quarter

428 **1906 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous and brilliant, a satiny, reflective gem with strong eye appeal despite an absence of cameo contrast. As of April 2003, PCGS had certified 192 Proof 1906 quarters in all grades. Of those 192 pieces, only *three* were called cameo; the point here is that virtually *all* 1906 Barber quarters are similar to the present coin, though not in quality. The present coin is pleasing in all respects, and well worth a serious bid from an active Barber quarter enthusiast.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Impressive Gem Proof 1907 Barber 25¢

A Delightful Cameo Rarity

429 **1907 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** Repunched 7 in date, Breen-4188. Barber's austere portrait of Liberty stands out in frosted grandeur from the deep mirror background on the obverse, while the frosty bald eagle on the reverse makes its own presence felt in no shy terms. A lovely example of the date, and a rarity with cameo contrast; PCGS has graded just 16 Proofs of the date with a cameo designation, and only two of those are graded finer than the present coin. "Regular" Proofs of the date outnumber the cameo Proofs *eight to one* in the PCGS *Population Report!* Our opinion: another worthwhile gem Proof Barber quarter that will see spirited bidding.

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 CAM finest).

Proof Mintage: 575, the lowest in the series to this date, and sixth lowest overall.

Breen-4188. "1907 Repunched 7. Proofs only. Presently rare." On the present specimen, a die artifact is seen in the lower loop of the 9, and there is definite repunching at the top of the 7.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

430 **1907 Proof-65 (NGC).** A splendid gem cameo Proof Barber quarter, though such is not noted on the NGC holder. The frosty motifs are splashed with intense shades of pale violet, blue, and bright gold, while the mirrored fields are chiefly deep gunmetal-blue. An exquisite coin with great aesthetic appeal.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Impressive MS-66 1907-O Quarter

Only One Certified Finer by NGC

431 **1907-O MS-66 (NGC).** Fully lustrous and mostly pewter gray with blushes of golden brown and splashes of russet toning. Despite a generous mintage of 4,560,000 pieces, only a few survivors of such outstanding quality have come down to the current generation of numismatists; a claim that is amply supported by the NGC population data reported below. Worth a strong bid.

NGC Census: 5; 1 finer (MS-68).

Lovely Gem Proof 1908 Quarter

(2x photo)

432 **1908 Proof-67 (PCGS).** An exquisite gem Proof with deep cameo contrast, though the lively iridescent toning perhaps made PCGS overlook that fact. Intense electric blue and rose iridescence graces the frosty portrait of Liberty on the obverse, while the deeply mirrored fields are deep blue and gold. On the reverse, the frosty American eagle motif is richly toned in iridescent rose and electric blue, with lively splashes of both at the rims. An impressive gem in all respects.

PCGS Population: 9; 5 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68).

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

433 **1908 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Deep and even gold and rose toning on reflective surfaces. Conservatively graded (in our opinion), certainly

choice for the assigned grade. Repunched date (see below). One of 545 Proofs of the date produced, the fourth lowest production figure of all Proof Barber quarter dates. A prize that should not be overlooked simply because it's "just" Proof-64.

Definite evidence of repunching seen at the bottoms of the 1 and 9, and within the loops of the 8.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Extraordinary Proof 1909 Barber Quarter
None Certified Finer by NGC

(2x photo)

434 **1909 Proof-68 (NGC).** A lovely gem Proof Barber quarter of unquestionable beauty. Faint rose iridescence at the obverse center gives way to sky blue iridescence on Miss Liberty's frosty portrait. Splashes of rich gold enhance the deeply mirrored obverse field. On the reverse, a fiery display of bright orange-gold, and electric blue graces the frosty eagle motif and deep mirror that surrounds it. No examples of the date have received a finer designation from NGC. An extraordinarily beautiful coin that will see extraordinary bidder support.

NGC Census: 7; none graded finer within the grade designation.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Superlative Gem Proof 1910 Quarter
A Dynamic Cameo

435 **1910 Proof-68 Cameo (ICG).** A superlative gem Proof Barber quarter that would probably garner the same grade from *any* grading service. Heavily frosted motifs and richly reflective mirror fields form a strong and irresistible cameo contrast. Lively golden lustre dances at the rims, adding a colorful charm to an already gorgeous coin. The present coin defines true gem quality, so bid confidently!

Cameo Gem Proof 1910 Barber Quarter

436 **1910 Proof-66 CAM (NGC).** Largely brilliant save for a faint halo of gold at the rims and a nuance of toning on the reverse devices. The frosty motifs make a lovely contrasting statement with the mirrored fields. Scarce so fine, and certain to draw its fair share of bidding attention when it is offered to a new generation of enthusiastic bidders.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Impressive Cameo Proof 1911 Quarter

437 **1911 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** Simply gorgeous. Heavily frosted design elements and deeply mirrored fields show warm golden highlights. One of 543 Proofs of the date struck, the third lowest Proof mintage figure in the series. About as pretty as a Barber quarter gets, and among the finest examples of the date certified by PCGS (two factors that don't *always* go together). A quick note regarding this specimen: a non-numismatic employee of the firm just walked into my (FVV) office, saw the coin, picked it up and exclaimed "what a beautiful coin!" There you have it folks, a totally unsolicited comment that pretty much sums up the overall appeal of the present Barber quarter.

PCGS Population: 3; 5 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 CAM finest).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1912 Barber 25¢

438 **1912 Proof-66 (NGC).** Pale lilac and bright gold with intense violet highlights in the protected areas. Frosted motifs and mirrored fields form a pleasing cameo contrast, though such is not noted on the NGC holder. A faint hairline on Miss Liberty's cheek is virtually all that stands between the assigned grade and one much higher.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Superb Gem Proof 1913 Barber 25¢

(2x photo)

439 **1913 Proof-68 (NGC).** Another splendid cameo Proof Barber quarter that failed to gain said designation from NGC. Splashes of pale lilac, rose, sky blue, and gold adorn both sides. Another lovely coin with the exquisite toning that is a hallmark of the many gems from the Philadelphia Family Collection. For the record, NGC has certified just one example of this date at a finer grade level.

NGC Census: 4; 1 finer within the grade designation (Proof-69).

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Lively Gem Cameo Proof 1913 Quarter

440 **1913 Proof-66 CAM (NGC).** Heavy frost, deep mirrors, and a whisper of golden toning are the order of the day for this impressive gem Proof quarter. One of just a half dozen Proofs of the date called Proof-66 CAM or finer by NGC. A beautiful coin from the waning years of the series, an engaging gem that will undoubtedly see strong bidder support.

NGC Census: 2; 4 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 CAM finest).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Splendid Gem Proof 1914 Quarter

Only 380 Pieces Struck

(2x photo)

441 **1914 Proof-67 ☆ (NGC).** Yet another Proof Barber quarter from the Philadelphia Family Collection that is fully cameo in appearance yet not designated as such on the holder. As with many other splendid Proof Barber quarters from this collection, the present coin is splashed with rich shades of violet, rose, gold, and fiery orange. An extraordinary coin, both physically and aesthetically.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Important Gem Proof 1914 Barber Quarter

Lowest Proof 25¢ Mintage Since 1864

(2x photo)

442 **1914 Proof-67 (NGC).** Largely brilliant with some faint gold at the rims. A tiny toning mark at Liberty's jawline is noted for accuracy's sake. The devices are moderately frosty and the mirrors

that surround them are deep; perhaps a touch more frost and this one would have been called "CAM." One of only 380 Proofs of the date struck, the lowest Proof production figure for any date in the series. Indeed, you have to go well back into the Liberty Seated quarter series, to the Civil War in fact, to find a date with a smaller Proof mintage! An exciting opportunity for Barber quarter collectors and for those who simply appreciate rare coins in rare grades.

NGC Census: 7; 2 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 finest).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Another Gem Proof 1914 Quarter

443 **1914 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** A blush of faint gold adorns the lightly frosted design elements and mirrored fields of this attractive gem cameo Proof. One of the three finest examples of the date certified by PCGS, and one glance tells the viewer why. A final opportunity to bid for a rare issue—in case you missed out on the preceding lots!

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 CAM finest).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Lovely Gem Proof 1915 Barber 25¢

Low Mintage

(2x photo)

444 **1915 Proof-67 (NGC).** Modest cameo contrast noted between the frosted motifs and mirrored fields. Lively lilac, sky blue, and gold toning enhances both sides, while some original mint brilliance can be seen on the reverse. Only 450 pieces were struck, the second lowest Proof mintage in the series.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

445 **1917 Type I. MS-66 FH (ICG).** A frosty, satiny gem with explosive lustre and a nuance of pale champagne on matte-like surfaces. Sharp and appealing, and every bit the gem the holder declares it to be.

446 **1917 Type I. MS-65 FH (PCGS).** A frosty, satiny, brilliant gem with a touch of pale golden toning. Sharp and appealing, as should be expected for the assigned grade.

447 **1917-D Type I. MS-65 FH (PCGS).** Brilliant silver and highly lustrous. A premium quality piece with the only noteworthy marks being positioned such that they are barely visible upon first inspection. A very attractive example to represent the date or type.

448 **1918-S MS-63 FH (NGC).** Warm intermingled pewter gray and golden brown iridescence on frosty surfaces. Quite scarce in Uncirculated grade in comparison with many other issues in the Standing Liberty series, especially those coined after 1923.

449 **1920 MS-66 (ICG).** A satiny, lustrous beauty, definitely of gem quality and eye appeal. Nicely struck as well, and not far from a "FH" designation overall.

450 **1930 MS-66 FH (PCGS).** Frosty and warmly toned in mottled shades of pewter gray and coppery gold. An impressive example coined during the final year of the Standing Liberty design type.

451 **1930 MS-66 (PCGS).** Fully brilliant and highly lustrous, and not far from a "FH" designation where strike is concerned.

452 **1930-S MS-66 FH (ICG).** An incredibly lustrous and fully brilliant gem with exquisite eye appeal and an impeccable strike. A pleasing coin that definitely holds up well to the expectations of the assigned grade.

Desirable 1932-S Washington 25¢

Important Key issue

453 **1932-S MS-64. (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous. A delightful example having a great deal of aesthetic appeal. The 1932-S has enjoyed the status of being a key issue for decades, sharing the honor with few other Washington quarters except for the 1932-D until recent years.

Although the 1932-S reigns high amongst the most desirable Washington quarter issues, it now has to vie for attention with a covey of formerly obscure doubled die varieties coined in the 1930s and 1940s which have emerged, only in recent years, into the spotlight of public acclaim and popularity.

454 **1932-S MS-64 (PCGS).** Brilliant and very lustrous. Close inspection reveals heavy die polishing lines over much of the surface, as made.

455 **1932-S MS-63 (PCGS).** Mottled soft steel gray toning over the lustrous surfaces. Another example of this popular date.

HALF DOLLARS

Beginning with three choice specimens dated 1795, the half dollars to follow are some of the most desirable pieces of this popular denomination a collector could ever hope to own. The early halves are replete with interesting varieties and Condition Census specimens, like the second finest known 1795 O-126 "Small Head" and a 1806 O-116 far finer than anything seen by Overton. Liberty Seated halves include memorable specimens in circulation strike and Proof format, the former including the fascinating 1844-O Doubled Date variety, *the finest* 1873-CC half dollar in existence, a coin once in the Garrett Collection, and a similarly spectacular 1878-CC in gem quality. The many fine Proof Liberty Seated half dollars are joined by superb Proofs of the Barber type from the Luther Breck collection, the Philadelphia Family collection, and other consignments. We are excited to be selling so many fine half dollars in one place – and we are sure that bidders will be equally excited to have the chance to obtain coins of this quality for their collections!

Choice VF 1795 O-105

456 **1795 Overton-105. Rarity-4. VF-35.** Deep pewter gray with silver gray devices and subtle violet and gold highlights in the fields. Excellent eye appeal, intermediate die state with crack through star 15 and delicate cracks connecting stars but no sign of the crack from B to head. Two small digs near star 13, another below T of LIBERTY in field, minor inborn roughness over ICA, natural rim flaw over BE of LIBERTY. An excellent example of this die marriage, a splendid looking coin for the grade.

Condition Census 1795 Recut Date 50¢

Overton-112

457 **1795 O-112. Rarity-4. Recut Date. EF-45 (NGC).** Rich pewter gray with subtle gold and violet highlights and frosty lustre in protected areas. One of the most attractive examples of this popular variety around, and one of the sharpest, with no distracting adjust-

ments marks as seen on many of the "finer" specimens of this die marriage. Far sharper than the Overton plate, only inconsequential handling marks, a choice example. The Lord St. Oswald piece is far and away the finest, a few AU specimens are known including several (like Eliasberg) with significant adjustment marks, but choice EF specimens are indeed rare. The date recutting is bold, sound central strike, late die state with advanced crack at upper obverse, but the recutting at BE is still plain. This coin would be an easy highlight in a specialized collection of early halves.

NGC Census for the 1795/1795 O-112: 1; 1 finer (AU-58).

Classic 1795 "Small Head" 50¢
Second Finest Known

(2x photo)

458 1795 O-126. Rarity-4. Small Head. EF-45. Even pale silver gray with subtle golden undertones and abundant mint frost and satiny lustre. Probably the second finest known specimen of this important variety, whose narrow head sets it apart from other 1795 varieties. The so-called "Small Head" obverse was used on Overton-126, Overton-127, and Overton-128 – in style this portrait most resembles the head on the 1794 dollar and is very distinctive from other 1795 portrait punches. The O-126, a very scarce die marriage, is the most frequently encountered of the three but is indeed a significant rarity in high grade. One Mint State piece is known, once in the Hawn collection, but after this specimen the CC quickly slides toward low-end VF and Fine coins. This specimen exhibits immaculate fields, some microscopic roughness in the central obverse device, and very good overall visual appeal. Only a tiny rim bruise over OF could be noted as a flaw. An important early half dollar, one of the very finest known of a distinctive type that deserves greater recognition.

From Stack's sale of the Cheek Collection, May 2002, Lot 183. Earlier from Stack's sale of the Marvin Taichert Collection, May 2001, Lot 17. Earlier from Kagin's in 1987.

Frosty Mint State 1806 50¢

459 1806 O-109a. Rarity-4. Pointed 6, Stemless. MS-62 (NGC). Bright satiny lustre on frosty silver gray surfaces. A suggestion of golden toning is noted at stars 9 and 10, scattered tiny contact marks account for the assigned grade, good overall eye appeal made even better by the superb lustre. A high-grade example of the Pointed 6, Stemless type.

Superb Mint State 1806 O-116
Condition Census

(2x photo)

460 **1806 O-116. Rarity-3. Pointed 6, Stems. MS-63 (PCGS).** Gem quality cartwheel lustre and exceptionally attractive toning in shades of gold, blue-green, and amber. A frosty delight, boldly struck with full feathers on the eagle's neck and excellent detail in Liberty's hair. Free of significant marks, with only an abrasion at the drapery line and a nick between stars 11 and 12 noted for identification of this Condition Census specimen. Finer than the Eliasberg coin, the best offered in recent years, and head and shoulders above the finest known to Overton and Parsley at the time of the Third Edition, which was a mere EF. This example has eye appeal far above its assigned grade and could be the finest known of the variety.

Toned Mint State 1806 50¢

(2x photo)

461 **1806 O-116. Rarity-3. MS-62 (NGC).** Lovely golden toning on highly lustrous deep gray surfaces. Nice strike and eye appeal suggesting a higher grade, no significant marks though some minor roughness is hidden in the central obverse device. A very attractive specimen on all counts.

Deeply Toned 1807 Draped Bust 50¢

(2x photo)

462 **1807 O-105. Rarity-2. Draped Bust. MS-62 (NGC).** Rich rose and gold centers yield to pale blue peripheries with bold cartwheel lustre throughout. Boldly struck on both sides, scattered minor contact points include a dull horizontal nick on Liberty's neck and a short scratch at the upper left corner of the shield, significant clash marks visible on both sides. The last year of the design type in this series, though half cents used the Draped Bust design into 1808. The present example has visual appeal beyond its assigned grade and would suit a picky collector.

463 **1807 O-106. Rarity-3. Draped Bust. EF-45 (NGC).** Appealing deep golden gray with olive-gray framing the obverse inside the rim. Choice for the grade with only one nick hidden in the clouds catching the eye under scrutiny. A very nice type coin.

464 **1820/19 O-102. Rarity-1. MS-60 (NGC).** Mottled dusky gray and gold with better lustre than the assigned grade would indicate. Many scattered contact points, but an appealing example of this popular overdate.

Toned Mint State 1829 50¢

465 **1829 O-105. Rarity-1. MS-64 (PCGS).** Full cartwheel lustre with mottled dark silver toning over light silver fields. A frosty specimen with a natural appearance, a few light marks in the left obverse are insignificant. A nice example of this popular type.

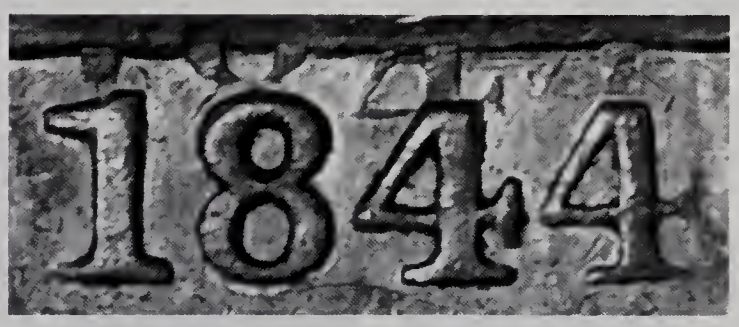
466 **1837 Reeded Edge. MS-62 (PCGS).** Dusky golden gray with full lustre. No serious marks. A desirable specimen.

Choice Mint State 1839 50¢

467 **1839 Reeded Edge. MS-63 (NGC).** Bold cartwheel lustre on lightly toned silver gray surfaces which exhibit a hint of gold. Good central strike, choice for the grade with exceptional eye appeal. A fine-looking specimen of this last "Capped Bust" portrait issue.

Important 1844/1844-O Half Dollar
Spectacular Die Variety

(2x photo)



468 **1844/1844-O FS-001. AU-55 (NGC).** Medium silver gray with deep gold and electric blue highlights at the rim. Some prooflike reflectivity is noted, especially on the reverse. One of the most spectacular repunched date varieties in all of American numismatics. The entire date was first punched too high in the die, the end result showing a date that seemingly appears to dangle from the rock base above. The numerals were only very lightly effaced from the die before repunching, so that the errant first date is plainly visible to the unaided eye. One of the most elusive Liberty Seated half dollar varieties, an issue that is avidly sought in *any* grade, including coins near basal state condition. The present coin is exceeded in grade on the NGC *Census* by just two examples, both of those at the AU-58 level. Some stray marks are noted, as should be expected for a coin that spent a modest amount of time in general circulation. However, on an elusive variety such as this, such circulation marks are easily and willingly forgiven. Bid liberally for this one, as an opportunity to obtain an example of this variety in such fine grade may not come your way again for a considerable length of time.

NGC Census: 1; 2 finer (AU-58 finest).

Choice Uncirculated 1853 Arrows & Rays 50¢

469 **1853 Arrows and Rays. MS-64 (PCGS).** Sultry silver gray with pale lilac iridescence. Strong underlying mint lustre bolsters the overall appeal of this ever-popular type issue. A sharp and attractive example of the grade and design type.

Attractive MS-64 1854-O 50¢

470 **1854-O Arrows. MS-64 (PCGS).** Lustrous and attractive with most design features showing bold definition. Warm golden gray toning enhances the central areas, and wisps and splashes of gunmetal-blue ornament the rims. A popular two-year design type that always attracts the attention of specialists when high-grade examples are available.

Elusive 1857 Proof 50¢

471 **1857 Proof-63 (NGC).** An appealing specimen exhibiting a pleasing nuance of golden iridescence. The design features are sharp including the obverse stars, Miss Liberty's hair and drapery details, and the eagle's feathers. The motifs have a satiny texture and fields are glittering mirrors, with reflective surfaces showing prominently between the stripes in the eagle's shield. Proofs of U.S. coins dated prior to 1858 are almost always rare, and the 1857 half dollar offered here is no exception to the rule. Although the Proof mintage for the date does not appear to have been recorded, in all probability it was no more than a few dozen pieces.

NGC Census: 11; 15 finer (Proof-67 finest)

Concerning the rarity of Proofs coined prior to 1858, there are a few issues which were produced in substantial quantity such as the Gobrecht dollars of 1836 and 1839 and the 1856 Flying Eagle cent, but few others come to mind.

Choice Proof 1862 Half Dollar

472 **1862 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Light champagne toning on frosty motifs and deep mirror fields. Sharply struck and visually enticing.

Richly Toned 1865 Half Dollar
Gem Proof

(2x photo)

473 **1865 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Rich shades of violet and indigo blend with bursts of faint sky blue and mint silver in a dramatic display of toning that imparts a feeling of stormy autumn skies. Definitely a cameo gem, though the deep and impressive toning is the highlight here. One of 500 Proofs struck during this terminal year of the Civil War. Only six examples of the date have been certified finer by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 16; 6 finer within the grade designation (Proof-66 finest).
Proof Mintage: 500.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Uncirculated 1865 Half Dollar

474 **1865 MS-65 (PCGS).** A satiny gem. Intense cartwheel radiates briskly on frosty surfaces. Rich shades of iridescent blue and gold adorn the obverse, while the reverse is evenly toned in pale orange gold with a whisper of electric blue at the rims. Sharply struck, with even the finest details boldly represented. Among the survivors currently available to collectors, PCGS has certified just two examples of the date at a finer grade. A lovely, lively gem.

PCGS Population: 11; 2 finer (MS-66).

475 **1871-S MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous golden gray with pale sky blue and rose iridescence at the rims.

Lovely MS-64 1873 Half Dollar
Close 3, No Arrows

476 **1873 No Arrows. Close 3. MS-64.** Frosty and attractively toned with golden gray iridescence at the centers changing to golden brown, violet, and electric blue at the borders. Virtually all design features are sharp, save for a trifle of striking softness at the eagle's right (viewer's left) claw.

Important Gem Mint State 1873-CC No Arrows 50¢

The Finest Graded by PCGS

The T. Harrison Garrett Specimen

477 **1873-CC No Arrows. MS-67 (PCGS).** A satiny gem of the highest order, sharply struck and lightly graced with a whisper of pale golden toning. A lovely coin that has held its grade for *decades;* 24 years ago, long before the advent of third-party grading services, Q. David Bowers graded the present piece "Choice Brilliant Uncirculated, MS-67" when he wrote the catalogue for the Garrett Collection (Part I, November 1979, Lot 354). Lo and behold, through the ups and downs of numismatics of the past two dozen years, this extraordinary coin has held its own. It has not suffered from mishandling or dipping, and it is still as lovely to behold as it was the first time Mr. Bowers encountered it (or for that matter, the first time T. Harrison Garrett cast his gaze upon it!). While Mint records reveal a mintage for the issue of 122,500 pieces (compared to 214,560 of the later style with arrows at date), it is thought that much of the mintage was relegated to the mint's crucibles, melted, then turned into the new style with arrows later in the year. Perhaps the ultimate Liberty Seated half dollar, or at least a coin that has incredibly strong claims to that honor. In the Garrett catalogue, Dave Bowers called this coin "unsurpassed in condition by *any* business strike Liberty Seated half dollar we have ever seen of any date or mint. An *incredible* coin." (The italicized words are from the original description). The present coin easily ranks among the finest examples of Liberty Seated coinage of *any* denomination, and as such takes on a "holy grail" identity all its own, especially in today's numismatic marketplace, where the "set registry" phenomenon has become a major reckoning force when people purchase coins. One thing is certain regarding the present piece; when the dust clears after what will surely be an intense bidding scramble for "bragging rights" to this gem, one lucky specialist will have a coin that may *never* take a back seat to *any* Liberty Seated half dollar that enters the marketplace. Truly, the finest of the fine!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Bowers and Ruddy Galleries' sale of the Garrett Collection, Part I, November 1979, Lot 354.

Gem Proof-66 1874 50¢
Tied as Finest NGC-Certified Cameo

(2x photo)

478 **1874 Arrows. Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Almost fully brilliant, with just a whisper of golden brown and blue at the obverse border. The design elements are sharp and frosty and the fields are glittering mirrors. The presently offered piece stands at the very pinnacle of quality and desirability and is confirmed by the NGC population data presented below.

NGC Census (cameos only): 2; none finer.

The 1874 half dollar belongs to a popular two-year design type having a combined Proof mintage (together with the "Arrows" 1873) of just 1,250 pieces, a tiny figure which prevents many collectors from fulfilling aspirations to acquire Proofs for inclusion in date and type sets.

Blazing Proof-65 1875 50¢

479 **1875 Proof-65 (NGC).** The central areas are brilliant, deepening to golden brown and gunmetal-blue at the borders. Virtually all design features show bold definition including Liberty's drapery and the eagle's feathers. Although 700 Proofs were coined during the year, only a tiny proportion could match the quality offered here. A prize for the connoisseur of quality.

NGC Census: 18; 13 finer (Proof-68 finest).

Extraordinary MS-66 1875-S Half Dollar
Tied as Finest Certified by NGC

(2x photo)

480 **1875-S MS-66 (NGC).** Brilliant, frosty, and sharply struck (save for a touch of trifling softness at the centers of a few stars). Outstanding from the dual perspectives of technical quality and aesthetic appeal. Although the 1875-S is seen with some frequency in MS-60 and lower grades, it is a true condition rarity at the MS-66 level; indeed it ranks among the finest we've ever seen or hope to see.

NGC Census: 8; none finer.

481 **1876-S MS-64 (PCGS).** A satiny specimen with rich cartwheel lustre that rotates boldly beneath pale gold and sky blue iridescence. An attractive coin for the grade. Only nine examples of this date have received finer grades from PCGS.

Extraordinary Gem Uncirculated 1878-CC 50¢
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

(2x photo)

482 **1878-CC MS-65 (PCGS).** An extraordinary Mint State example of the final half dollar issue from the Carson City Mint. Just 62,000 examples of the date were struck, at which time the attention of the Carson City Mint was turned to the production of Morgan dollars; alas, Carson City never produced a denomination below the dollar value again. A satiny gem with intense cartwheel lustre on pale golden surfaces; splashes of pale rose and violet iridescence gather at the rims. A beautiful coin that is exceeded by no other specimen in the PCGS *Population Report,* with only three peers noted in that listing. A classic combination of rarity, beauty, and "set registry" quality. Sharply struck. Our advice to you: do not wait for a similar specimen to enter the numismatic marketplace, unless, of course, you have infinite patience.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

483 **1879 MS-64 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous with brilliant centers that give way to rich, deep golden halos at the rims. A sharply struck specimen from a circulation strike mintage for the date of 4,800 pieces, and always desirable in choice Mint State.

Superb Gem Proof 1881 Half Dollar
Finest Graded by NGC

(2x photo)

484 **1881 Proof-68 (NGC).** A superlative gem. One of 975 Proofs of the date struck. Pale lilac centers exhibit wisps of iridescent gold, while smoky topaz, rose, and electric blue wander outward from the centers. The finest 1881 Proof half dollar certified by NGC in any grade designation.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any grade designation.

Pleasing Gem Proof 1882 Half Dollar

485 **1882 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Splashes of silver gray and pale electric blue mingle on the obverse, while the reverse is richly toned in rose, violet, and deep electric blue. The variety (WB-102) with the tops of two errant 8s in the dentils immediately beneath the date.

PCGS Population: 14; 2 finer (Proof-67 finest).

486 **1891 MS-64 (PCGS).** A lustrous silver gray specimen with pale peach, violet, and electric blue toning. A sharp and attractive specimen from the final year of the design type.

Lovely Gem Proof 1892 Barber 50¢

487 **1892 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A pale golden gem with nice lustre on Liberty's satiny portrait and the reverse eagle, as well as on the peripheral designs on both sides. A cameo, though not noted as such on the holder. Some minor reverse doubling seen in the legend, especially at the denomination. A pretty Proof, a coin possessed of subtle yet forceful beauty.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof-65 1892 50¢

488 **1892 Proof-65.** A delightful gem having sharp frosty devices, blazing mirror fields, and pronounced wire rims. The central areas exhibit rich golden toning changing over to electric blue and violet at the borders. An aesthetic treat certain to appeal to even the "fussiest" numismatist.

Coined during the first year of the Barber design type; something which contributed to the issue's somewhat larger than usual Proof mintage of 1,245 pieces (a figure that is infinitesimal compared to Proof mintages commonly seen in modern times).

Cameo Gem Proof 1893 Half Dollar

489 **1893 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** Pale champagne highlights on reflective fields and frosted motifs; Charles Barber's stoic Liberty design seems suspended in a sea of pale gold. One of just four examples of the date certified by PCGS at the assigned grade level, with only one specimen at a finer grade. We predict the quality of the present coin will favorably affect the level of bidding activity it receives.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 CAM finest).

The premier date of the design type, 1892, saw a Proof mintage of 1,245 pieces, a fairly large quantity perhaps precipitated by the advent of a new design type. In the following year, 1893, as offered here, the Proof half dollar mintage dropped dramatically to 792 pieces (453 coins *fewer* than in 1892), a number which is probably more reflective of the true number of interested collectors (or, perhaps, investors in some cases) doing business with the U.S. Mint. Of course, economic realities may have also played a role, as there was a notable downturn or "panic" in 1893.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Impressive 1895 Gem Proof 50¢

Condition Census Cameo

490 **1895 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** A visually and physically impressive gem Proof example of the date. A whisper of pale gold lingers at the periphery on the obverse, while a subtly deeper shade of gold makes itself at home across the entire reverse. Indeed, the reverse cameo contrast is so bold and distinct it presents the appearance of a hologram! Among the four finest examples of the date graded by PCGS, and a beauty in all regards.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 CAM finest).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1896 Half Dollar

491 **1896 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Lustrous with a faint blush of pale rose on the obverse; the toning is slightly deeper and more apparent on the reverse. A deep violet toning spot is noted at the second L in DOLLAR. Nice for the grade.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1896 Barber 50¢

492 **1896 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A lovely pale silver gray specimen with wisps of lilac, electric blue, and rose on both sides. Somewhat cameo in appearance with lightly frosted motifs and reflective fields.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Impeccable Cameo Proof 1897 50¢

Heavily Frosted Devices

(2x photo)

493 **1897 Proof-68 ULTRA CAM. (NGC).** Simply put, one of the most impressive Barber half dollars we have examined. Heavily frosted central devices are bold white islands amidst deeply mirrored fields. Brilliant and untoned, fields show no significant marks but a microscopic and natural planchet chip near star 7 will identify this specimen in the future. A long string of superlatives could be used on this coin, but an inspection will save us the trouble – this is one of the most heavily mirrored and deeply cameo Barber halves around. A world-class Proof type coin collection would be greatly enriched with the addition of this piece.

NGC Census: 6; 1 finer (Proof-69 Ultra Cameo).

Superb Proof 1897 Barber 50¢

(2x photo)

494 **1897 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A splendid gem Proof Barber half dollar that displays all the earmarks of the Philadelphia Family Collection—superb quality, dynamic eye appeal, and delightful toning highlights. The present piece is a pleasing cameo, although such is not noted on the PCGS holder. Splashes of pale sky blue and electric violet mix with pale champagne and generous amounts of original mint brilliance on both sides.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Golden Cameo 1897 Barber 50¢

Gem Proof-65

495 **1897 Proof-65 CAM (PCGS).** Rich shades of gold tempered with rose create an abundance of iridescent contrasts on this delightful cameo Proof half dollar. While the present piece may be considered "just" Proof-65 CAM by some, it is worth noting that PCGS has only certified *four* examples of the date in finer grades. (Suddenly, this "just" Proof-65 CAM coin takes on new importance!) A Condition Census example of the date, at least within the "CAM" designation. Don't miss this opportunity to catch a sleeper coin while it naps!

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 CAM finest).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

1898 Gem Cameo Proof 50¢

Among Finest Certified

496 **1898 Proof-65 CAM (PCGS).** Fully brilliant at the obverse center with a halo of rich gold at the rim; the reverse sports an even sheen of delightful medium gold. Choice for the grade–in fact, *choice for the date;* PCGS has only certified two examples of the date with a finer "CAM" designation, placing this coin firmly in the Condition Census.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 finest).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1899 Barber 50¢

(2x photo)

497 **1899 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A splendid gem Proof Barber half dollar with strong cameo contrast, though this is not noted on the "first generation" PCGS holder. Mirror fields and frosty motifs exhibit splashes of pale lilac and sky blue on the obverse, while the reverse is deeply and uniformly toned in lilac-gray with some golden highlights among the eagle's plumage. A coin whose grade has withstood the test of time: since its encapsulation, PCGS has only seen fit to certify two Proofs of the date at a finer grade level, a great track record in our opinion. Need we say more?

PCGS Population: 7; 2 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 finest).

Gem Proof 1901 Half Dollar

498 **1901 Proof-65 CAM (PCGS).** Sultry layers of pale gold and rose vie for dominance on the lightly frosted motifs and mirror fields of this warm and appealing gem Proof Barber half. Of the 813 Proofs of the date struck, very few survivors can equal the beauty and quality of the present coin. Bid with confidence and you'll be glad you did.

PCGS Population: 2; 5 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 CAM finest).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Colorful Gem Proof 1902 Barber 50¢

499 **1902 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Areas of bright mint brilliance mingle warmly with intense iridescent violet, rose, and gold highlights. Another splendid gem Proof Barber half dollar from the Philadelphia Family Collection, "fresh" and new to the numismatic marketplace, and certain to cause a stir when it takes its place on the auction block.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Gem Proof 1902 Barber 50¢

500 **1902 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Brilliant centers fade to rich golden iridescence at the rims. Mainly reflective with no real cameo contrast on the devices (as is standard for the Proofs of 1902-15; cameos of those dates are much rarer than earlier dates). An attractive coin for the grade.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1903 Half Dollar

501 **1903 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A lustrous gem with hints of pale gold on both sides. Sharp and attractive with just a touch of cameo contrast present on the reverse.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

502 **1903 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Lively splashes of iridescent violet, sky blue, and gold with traces of original mint brilliance.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Delightful Gem Proof 1904 Barber 50¢

503 **1904 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Underlying smoky gold toning with bursts of vivid violet, rose, and sky blue. Another lovely coin that has been out of the numismatic marketplace virtually since the day it was produced.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

504 **1904 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Splashes of pale rose at the rims surround mainly brilliant centers.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Splendid Gem Proof 1905 Barber 50¢

(2x photo)

505 **1905 Proof-67 (PCGS).** An impressive gem with lightly frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields that approach "cameo" in their appearance. Autumn shades of vibrant gold, rose, and lilac grace the obverse, while the reverse affords an array of rich violet, electric blue, and silver. A visually stunning beauty that readily approaches finest known quality in all respect.

PCGS Population: 9; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68).

Lively Gem Proof 1905 Barber 50¢

506 **1905 Proof-66 (NGC).** Lively lustre leaps from lightly frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields, the whole surrounded by a pale halo of golden toning. Choice for the grade, and just a modicum of frost from a cameo designation.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1906 Half Dollar

507 **1906 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Sunny shades of gold grace the reflective, lustrous surfaces of this no-questions-asked gem Proof. Lightly frosted on the devices, though not quite enough to warrant a cameo designation (of the 221 Proofs of the date certified by PCGS, only *four* pieces have received a cameo designation). Choice for the grade.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1906 Barber 50¢

508 **1906 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A touch of frost on the high points and a whisper of pale gold on both sides make for an enticing gem Proof.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Cameo Gem Proof 1907 Half Dollar
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

509 **1907 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** Fully brilliant and equally lustrous, with a touch of frosty contrast on the devices. Rare as a cameo; of the 155 Proofs of the date certified thus far by PCGS (April 2003), just four have received the coveted cameo designation. Of those four, just two have received a Proof-66 CAM designation, the finest grade from that grading service. One of 575 Proofs of the date produced, the sixth smallest Proof production figure of the design type and denomination. If you demand the finest for your collection, this coin will fulfill that demand, so please bid accordingly.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer within the grade designation.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1908 Barber Half Dollar

510 **1908 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Generous amounts of mint brilliance mix with vivid electric blue and gold on the obverse, while the reverse is a colorful pastiche of pale violet, blue, gold, sea green, and red-gold. Only 545 Proofs of the date were produced, making this the fourth lowest Proof mintage of the series.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

511 **1908 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous with some mild reverse cameo contrast. Choice for the grade.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Lovely Gem Proof 1909 Half Dollar

512 **1909 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Fully brilliant with a touch of pale gold at the rims. Frosty motifs just shy of what PCGS might routinely call cameo; the reverse certainly warrants the designation. A pleasing combination of impressive aesthetic appeal and strong physical quality.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1909 Barber Half Dollar

513 **1909 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Much mint brilliance mingles with vivid electric blue, violet, and gold on the obverse, while the reverse exhibits pale champagne and sky blue highlights.

From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

Splendid 1910 Gem Cameo Proof 50¢

514 **1910 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** Lightly frosted motifs and deep silver mirrors imbued with a trace of pale champagne toning. A pleasing gem Proof Barber half dollar, one of the finest certified examples of the date available in a PCGS holder. This date's Proof mintage, 551 pieces, is the fifth lowest of the series. Only two Proofs of the date have been graded finer by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 CAM finest).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Sparkling Gem Proof 1911 Barber 50¢
None Graded Finer by PCGS

515 **1911 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** A sparkling gem Proof Barber half dollar of the finest order (at least in the eyes of the graders at PCGS; that organization has not certified a finer example of the date). The motifs are satiny with a touch of lively golden iridescence, and with cameo contrast that ranks with the finest such examples of the design type where visual appeal is concerned. One of 543 Proofs produced of the date, the third lowest Proof production figure in the series. You'll be hard pressed to find a Proof Barber half dollar of *any* date with as much "pizzazz" as the present coin, so be sure to bid accordingly.

PCGS Population: 6; none finer within the grade designation.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Pleasing Gem 1911 50¢

516 **1911 MS-65 (NGC).** Satiny lustre on silver gray surfaces, framed with pleasing coppery tones at the extreme peripheries. Minor planchet chip, as struck, at lower neck near star 13, fully struck on both sides, excellent eye appeal. A very nice specimen of the date or type.

517 **1912 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Largely brilliant with a nuance of pale gold at the rims. Frosty motifs and mirror fields form a modest but pleasing cameo contrast, though such is not noted on the holder (in defense of the coin, we have seen coins with less frost called cameo on the holder). Visually finer than the assigned grade implies.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Attractive Gem Proof 1913 Half Dollar

518 **1913 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A beautiful gem Proof half dollar with blazing lustre, frosty motifs, delicate golden lustre, and a great amount of aesthetic appeal. Another splendid gem Proof Barber half dollar that deserves a "cameo" designation, at least in this writer's (FVV) opinion; you'll render the final opinion in this case. A note to our bidders: if you are in active pursuit of perfection, the present coin is not far off the mark!

A tiny die crack extends upward and downward from the tip of Liberty's bust.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1915 Barber 50¢
Terminal Date in the Series

519 **1915 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Pale golden iridescence on mirror fields and lightly frosted motifs. An attractive gem Proof that could easily have been designated cameo by PCGS; the contrast is certainly strong enough in our opinion. From the last year of Barber half dollar coinage (though dimes and quarters of the same general design type were produced in 1916). Only 450 Proofs were issued this year. An enticing and fitting end to the Proof Barber half dollars from the Luther A. Breck Collection.

PCGS Population: 10; 4 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 finest).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Proof 1938 Half Dollar

520 **1938 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A highly reflective gem Proof coin with rich red-gold toning at the rims, probably imparted by a stay in an old-style Wayte Raymond (or similar) coin board. From a Proof mintage for the date of 8,152 pieces, a tiny mintage when compared to today's huge production figures.

521 **1942-D MS-67 (NGC).** Vibrant pastel shades of rose, gold, blue, and violet combine in a colorful pastiche on the satiny surfaces of this delightfully toned gem Liberty Walking half dollar.

522 **1945-S MS-66 (PCGS).** A lustrous gem with fully brilliant silver surfaces. Close inspection reveals heavy die polish lines on both dies.

SILVER DOLLARS

Our largest silver coins have always been popular collector's items. *The Classics Sale* presents a group of silver dollars that encompasses every major type – early dollars by variety, including a superb Mint State 1797 BB-71 and a Condition Census 1803 Small 3, BB-254. An 1836 Gobrecht dollar has always been a hallmark of a great collection, and the 1852 and 1855 Proof which follow that coin are both great rarities which will see active bidding. Very few Liberty Seated dollars can be called "common" in Mint State, but many can be called very rare – the 1859-S and 1869 issues certainly qualify, but both are present in superlative condition here! An 1873-CC dollar in VF is a very desirable coin, one of a tiny mintage of 2,300 pieces. If Proofs are an attraction to you, pay special attention to a lovely No Motto 1865 from the Eliasberg Collection and an equally tempting With Motto 1866 from the Breck Collection. Morgan dollar specialists – and their numbers are legion – will find Proofs and key dates present in superb grade. A word to the wise: two of the most impressive silver dollar *errors* ever offered are catalogued later, in a special section of Mint Errors.

Choice VF 1795 $1
Flowing Hair

523 **1795 Bowers Borckardt-21, Bolender-1. Flowing Hair. Rarity-1. VF-25 (NGC).** Even and lovely deep gray with a hint of gold. A choice example for the grade with only the most insignificant marks – this coin was never subjected to anything more than gentle wear. A coin like this is on so many want lists that a premium bid will be required to add it to your collection.

Remarkable AU 1795 Draped Bust Dollar

(2x photo)

524 1795 BB-52, B-15. Rarity-2. Draped Bust. AU-55 (PCGS). Deep slate gray with lightly reflective surfaces exhibiting lively golden and variegated toning. Abundant lustre remains, superb visual appeal, excellent strike with only minor weakness on eagle's leg. A choice coin for the grade, tiny nick under truncation of the bust, thin scratch between star 5 and ribbon, Bowers die state IV. An extremely desirable coin, an example of the first issue to use the Draped Bust design inspired by Gilbert Stuart and perhaps its most attractive manifestation. Any collector would be proud to own this handsome dollar.

Popular 1796 Draped Bust $1

Small Date, Large Letters

525 1796 BB-61, B-4. Rarity-3. Small Date, Large Letters. EF-40 (PCGS). Pleasing medium silver gray with lighter silver gray high points. A few faint marks are noted, none of those serious enough to draw the viewer's attention. A tiny reverse rim bruise, about the width of a dentil, is noted at 2:00. A popular issue, one that is typically found at the VF level. As Q. David Bowers noted in his *Encyclopedia* "EF coins turn up with regularity in dealer's stocks and auctions and make a nice type coin. In AU or better grade 1796 BB-61 is very rare." The present coin represents a grand opportunity to obtain an example of the variety without paying AU money for a "very rare" condition. A pleasing coin in all regards.

Choice VF 1796 Draped Bust $1

526 1796 BB-63, B-2. Rarity-4. Small Date, Large Letters. VF-25 (PCGS). Medium golden gray with some faint lilac highlights on the high points. Devoid of contact marks, though note is made of some crisscross central planchet adjustment marks on the reverse. Scarcer than its counterpart with Large Letters. As noted by Q. David Bowers in his *Encyclopedia*, "Above VF, acquisition becomes a challenge. Specimens are scarce if EF and very rare if AU." The present choice VF specimen affords an interested collector an opportunity to obtain a pleasing example of the date without having to compete for a rarer high-grade specimen.

Lustrous EF 1796 Dollar

527 **1796 BB-65, B-5. Rarity-4. EF-45.** An exceptionally lovely coin with rich blue peripheral toning and pale violet interiors. Thoroughly lustrous and very attractive, some flatness of strike affects perceived sharpness, minor rim nick over L of LIBERTY, light vestiges of an adjustment mark in gap between UNITED and STATES, small criss-cross scratch at base of reverse. Late die state with lump covering much of IC. A choice example, a coin that maintains generous natural eye appeal, a strong specimen of the Large Date, Small Letters type.

Beautiful Uncirculated 1797 Silver $1

Stars 10X6, Large Letters

(2x photo)

528 **1797 BB-71, B-3. Rarity-2. Stars 10X6. Large Letters. MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous deep lilac-gray centers give way to rich violet and electric blue iridescence at the rims. A splendid coin in all respects; indeed, a casual observer might be moved to remark "why *only* MS-62" after a quick glance. The obverse strike is bold and sharp, and except for a touch of faintness on the highest points of the eagle motif, the same can be said for the reverse. In *Silver Dollars & Trade Dollars of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia,* the landmark reference by Q. David Bowers, the author notes "As is the case with dollars of the other two varieties of this year, examples of BB-71 are usually seen in lower grades. However, several have been called Uncirculated over the years. Undoubtedly, most would not merit the grade by today's stricter interpretations of standards." Not so, however, with the present beauty! It is definitely as Uncirculated as a coin gets, and we would not be surprised to find at some time in the future that this coin has been upgraded by one of the third-party grading services. For those of you who are drawn to high quality coins such as this, we note that PCGS has only certified *three* Mint State examples of the variety, two of those at the present coin's level, and the third at MS-63. We can't vouch for the other two coins, but if they are anywhere near as lovely as this 1797 dollar, they must also be true miniature works of art!

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-63).

BB-71 represents the only use of the obverse and reverse dies; neither die was ever combined with any other die in the series. The present coin is a pleasing representative of Die State III in the Bowers *Encyclopedia,* described there as "Obverse die relapped as above. Reverse relapped, removing the right edges of several palm leaves on the right side of the branch. The die state usually seen."

Fascinating Double Struck 1798 Dollar

529 1798 BB-81, B-2. Rarity-3 for the variety. Small Eagle. G-6 (PCGS). Even silver gray with some faint surface toning. Boldly double struck with a few degree shift, with all devices clearly doubled, especially at the peripheries. Choice for the grade with seemingly better detail and only a few minor rim bruises to note, one over L in LIBERTY pointed out for identification. A nice circulated early dollar error.

From the John Haugh Collection. The late Mr. Haugh was a scholar of early dollars, avid collector of their errors, and a prize-winning fisherman whose joie de vivre was infectious. We are glad to have called him a friend.

AU 1798 Dollar

530 1798 BB-112, B-15. Rarity-3. Heraldic Eagle. AU-58 (PCGS). Mottled silver and pewter gray lend a distinctive and attractive look, fields and peripheries show subtle lustre, good strike and overall detail. A desirable high-grade example of the type.

Mint State 1799/8 Dollar

(2x photo)

531 1799/8 BB-141, B-3. Rarity-3. 15 Stars. MS-62 (PCGS). Pleasing cartwheel lustre, attractive deep silver gray surfaces exhibit rose-amber toning with hints of deep violet and blue. The overdate is very bold, some scattered contact marks account for the assigned grade, a type coin that boasts excellent visual appeal.

Though this variety is a 15 star reverse, with two stars peeking out from the swollen end clouds, the holder erroneously reads "13 star reverse."

Appealing 1799/8 Dollar

532 **1799/8 BB-141, B-3. Rarity-3. 15 Stars. AU-50.** Soft and attractive silver gray with abundant frosty lustre. Some light roller striations are noted in the planchet which lend a woodgrain effect, excellent overall eye appeal. Two short scratches crisscross in the right obverse field, remarkably pristine otherwise. A boldly detailed specimen of this popular overdate.

Beautifully Toned 1803 Dollar
Condition Census

533 **1803 BB-254, B-4. Small 3. Rarity-3. AU-55 (PCGS).** Full lustrous cartwheel on surfaces attractively toned pale violet and blue with hints of gold and amber. An exceptional specimen of this variety, one of the finest known – none are recorded in Mint State. Some light pre-existing roughness is noted in the intricacies of the hair, faint scratch under star 8, a beautiful coin that has few rivals in sharpness or visual appeal.

The Bowers *Silver Dollar Encyclopedia* notes three AU-55 specimens sold since 1955, with one described as having "golden bluish lustre" appearing twice in Kagin's sales in the 1970s – perhaps the identical coin as that offered here. In any case, this dollar is probably finest known of the variety or tied for finest known, and belongs in a specialized cabinet.

Popular 1836 Gobrecht $1
Die Alignment IV

534 **1836 Gobrecht. Judd-60, Pollock-65. Net EF-45;** sharpness of AU-55, but perhaps lightly cleaned long ago. Silver. Plain edge. C. GOBRECHT F. on base. Die Alignment IV, reverse eagle flies onward and upward in a field of 26 stars when the coin is turned on its *vertical axis*, pellet before ONE DOLLAR lower than the pellet that follows the denomination. Deep golden gray with lighter golden highlights in the recessed areas. Perhaps the most popular of all U.S. pattern issues, the Gobrecht dollars of 1836-1839 have been adopted by serious students of the U.S. silver dollars series. A few scattered marks are seen, but the overall integrity is such that the present piece should not have any problem finding a niche in a new collection.

Rare MS-63 1850 Dollar
Among the Finest Certified by NGC

535 **1850 MS-63 (NGC).** Deeply toned vivid gunmetal-blue with violet highlights across the surfaces. Areas of golden brown and lustrous silver are mottled throughout, though much of the lustre is obscured by the toning. Most design features are sharp including the eagle's feather and claw details. One of the finest examples certified by NGC, with just three examples exceeding the grade of this coin.

NGC Census: 2; 3 finer (MS-64 finest)

Important 1852 Silver Dollar Rarity

Mintage: 1,100

(2x photo)

536 **1852 AU-50,** lightly cleaned long ago. Medium silver gray with areas of deep golden toning around the legends and devices. A few scattered marks are noted, none of them serious enough to warrant individual description. A rare date that was recognized as such almost from the start. As Q. David Bowers noted in his silver dollar *Encyclopedia*, "specimens of the 1852 were taken from circulation in the 19th-century, when the date was already recognized as being scarce and valuable in any grade. Today, the 1852 is a classic rarity. When specimens in such grades as VF and EF come on the market they furnish an opportunity for numismatists to acquire an example without having to pay the going rate for a higher level coin such as a Mint State or Proof example." Such is the status of the present coin, a coin that will appeal to those who just can not "stretch" for an Uncirculated or Proof example. As Bowers also noted, "in high grades the 1852 seems to be slightly rarer than the 1851, but the population is so small that no unequivocal conclusions can be drawn." Of the 1,100 circulation strikes of the date produced, it is fairly certain that just a tiny proportion of that mintage figure can still be located by today's collectors.

While the present example of this rarity is certainly not a prince among coins, it is certainly not a pauper either. We expect to see serious bidding competition, as examples of the date seldom come to market. Those that do are always quickly and easily absorbed into advanced collections, and we feel the same is in store for the present coin. Bid heartily, for such generates success.

Choice Proof 1855 $1 Rarity

(2x photo)

537 **1855 Proof-63 (NGC).** An important rarity as is generally the case for Proofs struck at the U.S. Mint prior to 1858. The obverse has pale champagne toning with splashes of blue at the border. The reverse has bull's eye pattern toning, with champagne iridescence at the center, changing to golden brown and electric blue peripherally.

The design features are sharp and satiny, and the fields are nicely reflective. Although the number of Proofs minted does not appear to be recorded, it's unlikely that the total amounted to more than a few dozen; Walter Breen estimated a surviving population of perhaps 60 when he wrote his *Encyclopedia* back in the 1980s.

NGC Census: 3; 9 finer (Proof-65 finest).

The 1855 dollar ranks as a desirable issue largely because of its low 26,000 piece mintage, and accordingly is eagerly sought in all grades.

Mint State 1859-S $1 Rarity
Famous "Trade Dollar" Issue

(2x photo)

538 **1859-S MS-62 (NGC).** The first silver dollar issue of the San Francisco Mint. Nicely reflective fields exhibit lively toning, mostly pale blue and gold with areas of deep champagne, the reverse more even than the mottled obverse. Excellent eye appeal, a very attractive specimen and one of perhaps five to 10 known in Mint State based upon estimates in Dave Bowers' *Silver Dollar Encyclopedia*. Some insignificant hairlines are noted on the prooflike fields, tiny curved nick off wing under last A in AMERICA, thin long planchet striation from E in UNITED to left top corner of shield. The strike is crisp and even. This piece is from the Breen-5462 obverse, with light repunching at the base of the date plain.

One of the genuine rarities of the Liberty Seated dollar series in Mint State, the 1859-S had a tiny mintage of only 20,000 pieces, many of which were melted for a quick profit soon after mintage and few of which survive in anything near Mint State. The issue was originally conceived as a trade dollar to capitalize on the Orient trade dominated by Mexican pesos. The San Francisco Mint would not strike another dollar until the very rare 1870 issue, and Mexican silver would continue to be the coin of choice in the Orient until another more successful attempt to produce a coin for trade with China: the trade dollar issues of 1873 and after. Today, many trade dollar collectors seek specimens of the 1859-S dollar for inclusion in their sets, but most never improve upon a VF, or at best EF, example. This coin has long held classic rarity status in Mint State and this example is one of a very small number that a serious collector could ever endeavor to own.

NGC Census: 4; 1 finer (MS-65). This number may be bloated by resubmissions.

Elusive 1859-S Liberty Seated $1

539 **1859-S AU-53 (NGC).** Medium golden gray with some lilac highlights. Underlying lustre is present, especially in the protected areas. A thoroughly enticing example for the grade, a coin that is mainly blemish free and appealing in all ways.

Superb Gem Proof 1860 Seated Dollar

Tied for Finest Graded Proof

No Motto $1 by PCGS

(2x photo)

540 **1860 Proof-67CAM(PCGS).** Recognized by PCGS as one of the very finest Proof examples of the No Motto format, from 1840 to 1866, and undoubtedly a coin which ranks very high among the finest of all Proof Liberty Seated dollars. Close inspection under magnification reveals a few lint marks and tiny flakes, as made. However, to the unaided eye these small artifacts of the striking process are not immediately apparent. The surfaces are otherwise nearly pristine, with a dime-sized circle of brilliant silver at the lower center of the obverse, while vibrant toning covers the remainder of the area to the rims. Vivid violet, blue, soft green and champagne hues blend nicely to enhance the visual appeal. The reverse is predominantly brilliant silver with a wide arc of golden brown, giving way to pleasing violet and blue toward the rim. The devices are sharp, with a heavy satin frost, while the fields are boldly reflective and contrast nicely. An extraordinary Liberty Seated dollar suitable for the finest of collections.

It has been suggested that as the Mint saw increasing public interest in numismatics, they anticipated that sales of Proof dollars would exceed those for complete sets and minor coins. Judging from a brief study of auction appearances of all denominations issued in Proof for 1860, and taking into consideration Mint sales figures researched by R.W. Julian it does not appear that dollars held any extra demand. Whatever the case, sales clearly fell well short of expectations. Though the published mintage figure of 1,330 specimens stands as the largest Proof issue of the series, more than half of these pieces remained unsold and were condemned to the melting pot. Just 527 pieces remained. After 1860, the production figures of Proof dollars matched those for the minor silver denominations.

Scarce MS-63 1862 $1

541 **1862 MS-63 (NGC).** Brilliant and lustrous. Most design features are sharp, save for some striking softness at Miss Liberty's hair and the eagle's right (viewer's left) claw. Close examination reveals some faint die finishing lines on the reverse as made. A scarce and desirable issue in all grades; eagerly sought because of its tiny original mintage of 12,090 pieces.

NGC Census: 15; 20 finer (MS-65 finest)

Outstanding Gem Proof 1865 Silver $1

The Eliasberg Specimen
Final "No Motto" Date

542 **1865 Proof-66 Cameo (ICG).** An impressive cameo gem Proof example of the final date in the Liberty Seated dollar series without the motto IN GOD WE TRUST in the design; the motto was added in 1866, and continued in the design through the end of the series in 1873. Described in the Eliasberg catalogue as "Champagne and light golden toning over deep mirror surfaces. A fantastic specimen combining overall scarcity as a date with notable aesthetic quality and rarity as a Proof. Here is a winner in every sense." Fully six years later and we agree with those remarks; some things go untouched by time. From a Proof mintage for the date of 500 pieces, all of which were distributed in the silver Proof sets of the date. Much of the circulation strike mintage of the date is believed to have been sent to South America, thus accounting for the rarity of the date in Uncirculated today. In his *Silver Dollar Encyclopedia,* author Q. David Bowers noted the following: "As business strikes of the 1865 dollar are very rare, additional demand has developed for the Proofs, accounting for the spirited competition when examples of this and other dates, especially of the later no-motto years, 1861-1865, come up at auctions." We certainly expect no less than "spirited competition" as this impeccably pedigreed dollar crosses the auction block!

Some slight doubling is noted in the reverse legends, notably at the base of ONE DOL, the period following, and the second A in AMERICA.

From Auctions by Bowers and Merena Inc.'s sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, April 1997, Lot 2236. First offered in Ed Frossard's sale of the Edmund R. Wolcott Collection, May 1901; purchased there by J.M. Clapp, perhaps to replace a coin bought from the Chapman brothers in November 1893; from J.M Clapp to John H. Clapp to the Clapp Estate, to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. in 1942.

Lovely Gem Proof 1866 Silver $1

With Motto

(2x photo)

543 **1866 With Motto. Proof-65 (NGC).** Lustrous silver gray with frosty motifs and mirror fields that display rich rose and gold iridescence within the central devices, and halos of pale electric blue at the rims. One of 725 Proofs of the date produced in the first year to feature the motto IN GOD WE TRUST as part of the reverse design. Variety with centered date and no repunching at 1 of date (see below). About as nice as this date can be–attractively toned, sharply struck, and appealing in many respects; only three examples have been graded finer by NGC. We predict fast and furious bidding when this gem makes its appearance on the auction block, so work out your bidding strategy beforehand.

NGC Census: 20; 3 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 finest).

Bowers *Encyclopedia* No. 3. "Breen-5476. Obverse: Date centered, 1 not repunched. Reverse from the die of No. 2. This same die, possibly used for the final Proof mintages of 1866, was used to coin 1867 Proof dollars, and in later die states also the 1863-4-5 dollars with motto." The reverse of "No. 2" mentioned above has a distinctive thornlike die line that protrudes into the field from the upper side of the third olive leaf in the sprig, as does the present coin.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Incredible Gem Uncirculated 1869 Silver $1
The Finest Certified by PCGS
Perhaps Finest Known!

(2x photo)

544 **1869 MS-66 (PCGS).** Satiny golden gray gem surfaces exhibit sultry lustre and generous amounts of lively rose and pale electric blue iridescence. A stunning coin, and just a few tiny marks from perfection in this cataloguer's (FVV) eyes! The circulation strike mintage for the date, 423,700 pieces, is among the highest recorded mintages in the series, yet the rarity factor of the date is extraordinarily high in Mint State, easily being Rarity-6 *or even higher*, despite the occasional wishful rumors of a fantastic hoard of this date. In his *Encyclopedia*, author Dave Bowers wrote "In Mint State, 1869 dollars are very rare, far rarer than Proofs [of the date] and are seldom encountered. Most high grade coins are prooflike." The present coin is an exception to the "prooflike" rule. What happened to all those hundreds of thousands of 1869-dated Liberty Seated dollars that were struck? Again, the Bowers reference notes "Hepburn in *History of Currency in the United States*, p. 270, tells of the increased silver dollar coinage 'chiefly due to the rich discoveries of Nevada,' and goes on to say, 'The coinage of silver dollars increased at once and from 1868 to 1872...practically all were exported.' As chairman of the board of the Chase Manhattan Bank and former Comptroller of the Currency, he would seem to have been in a position to know what happened to those increased mintages of dollars." Notably, NGC has not graded a circulation strike specimen of the date above MS-65, and except for the present coin, neither has PCGS! This important gem Mint State 1869 Liberty Seated dollar, simply put, is of world-class quality, a coin to which all others of the date will be compared in vain. Perhaps at some future date a splendid gem will be found, put aside by a numismatically inclined merchant or collector and forgotten by time, but for now the present coin is the unquestionable *crème de la crème* of the issue!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Lustrous MS-64 1872 $1

545 **1872 MS-64.** Sharply struck and attractive. The devices are frosty and the fields are satiny. Both surfaces have warm intermingled pewter gray and coppery gold iridescence with a hint of blue. A splendid candidate for inclusion in a high-quality silver dollar collection or 19th-century type set.

PCGS Population: 16; 5 finer (MS-66 finest).

Prized 1873-CC Silver Dollar Rarity

546 **1873-CC VF-30 (NGC).** A pale golden gray specimen with strong eye-appeal for the assigned grade. An old mark on the reverse ascends from the R in TRUST to the backside of the eagle's neck directly below, otherwise marks of note are not to be found. As Q. David Bowers noted in his *Silver Dollar Encyclopedia,* "the desirability of the 1873-CC was recognized at an early date, and quite a few were taken from circulation. Otherwise, the coin would be on the 'rarest of the rare' list today. As it is, there are very few 1873-CC dollars to be had in any grade, and a great deal of patience is often required to locate one." For those of you who have patiently awaited a pleasing example of the date, we suggest a hearty foray into the bidding activity that will certainly accompany the present lot. For the record, NGC has certified just four Mint State examples of the date; indeed, they have only certified 19 examples of the date in all grades!

NGC Census: 7 (a figure that includes all VF grades, not just VF-30, as represented here); 12 finer (MS-65 finest).

547 **1878 7 Tailfeathers. Reverse of 1878. MS-65 (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous with satiny devices and great eye appeal.

Uncirculated 1879-CC Silver Dollar
Normal Mintmark

548 **1879-CC Normal Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).** Frosty brilliance, save for faint traces of golden brown toning at the rims. Boldly lustrous and offering good quality for the grade as the fields are quite a bit more mark-free than one would expect at this level. Under proper lighting, a few faint hairlines are noted at the lower left of the obverse.

Eight GSA Carson City Dollars
Original Boxes and Paperwork

549 **A selection of GSA Carson City dollars,** all with original boxes and paperwork: ☆ 1880-CC MS-62 ☆ 1881-CC MS-64 ☆ 1882-CC (2). MS-64, and MS-62 PL ☆ 1885-CC (4). MS-64, and MS-62 (3). A nice group of Carson City dollars from the GSA sales of the early 1970s. (Total: 8 pieces)

Delightful 1882 Cameo Proof $1

550 **1882 Proof-64 Cameo (NGC).** Pale champagne toning at the center deepens to a rich gold shade at the borders. The devices are sharp and frosty, and the fields are glittering mirrors. Only 1,100 Proofs were coined during the year, and although other examples can match the technical grade, few can equal the aesthetic quality of this specimen.

Attractive Proof-64 1884 $1

551 **1884 Proof-64.** An aesthetically pleasing example exhibiting bull's eye toning on both the obverse and reverse, with golden brown at the center changing to violet and electric blue peripherally. The devices show bold cameo contrast against the mirror fields. From a mintage of just 875 Proofs.

Gem Proof 1891 Morgan $1

552 **1891 Proof-67 DCAM (ICG).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields exhibit pale rose highlights at the peripheries and a splash of rose in the field before Miss Liberty's portrait. A no-questions-asked gem. One of 650 Proofs of the date struck, the fourth lowest Proof production run in the series (the Proof Morgan dollar mintage for 1904 was also 650 pieces).

Elusive MS-62 1892-S $1

(2x photo)

553 **1892-S MS-62 (NGC).** Frosty and attractive, with just a hint of champagne iridescence. A typical strike with a touch of softness noted above Miss Liberty's ear and at the eagle's breast. A line in front of Miss Liberty's nose is probably all that prevented NGC from assigning a considerably higher grade. Despite a mintage of 1,200,000 pieces, the 1892-S is a scarcity in all grades, and is a rarity at the Uncirculated level.

NGC Census: 9, 20 finer (MS-67 finest)

Under the provisions of the Pittman Act of 1918, more than 270 million silver dollars were melted into bullion, including, presumably, almost all of the 1892-S mintage. The NGC population data suggests that comparatively few examples were included in the giant Treasury hoard dispersed in the 1960s and later years.

1894 Morgan Dollar Group
Includes a Proof and a Peace Dollar

554 **Four key date 1894 Morgan dollars, one a Proof, plus a Peace dollar:** ☆ 1894 Proof-60, perhaps marginally finer. Medium silver gray with frosty motifs ☆ 1894 (2). AU-50 (NGC), and EF-45 (NGC). These two have consecutive serial numbers, indicating they were submitted for grading at the same time; curiously, the EF-45 looks as though it belongs in the AU-50 holder, and vice versa ☆ 1894-O EF-45. Lilac and gray toning ☆ 1934-D MS-62. Brilliant. (Total: 5 pieces)

Gem Proof 1901 Morgan $1

555 **1901 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Strong mint brilliance on the central devices gives way to deep, sultry charcoal gray toward the rim. One of 813 Proofs of the date struck. Mint State examples of the date are very rare, which places an undue amount of acquisition pressure on the surviving Proofs. If you have a deep appreciation for richly toned coins, it may behoove you to study the present piece.

Brilliant, Lustrous 1901 $1

556 **1901 MS-62 (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous, pleasing for the grade. A scarce date in grades higher than EF. The 1901 ranks among the many issues in the Morgan series that were apparently almost wiped out by the massive meltage of dollars into bullion that occurred pursuant to the provisions of the Pittman Act of 1918.

Richly Toned Gem Proof 1902 Morgan $1

557 **1902 Proof-67 (NGC).** Deep electric blue, rose, and slate gray toning highlights with areas of original mint brilliance on both sides. One of 777 Proof Morgan dollars of the date struck, with the present coin being among the finest half dozen examples certified by NGC.
NGC Census: 3; 3 finer (Proof-68 finest).
From the Philadelphia Family Collection.

558 1902-S MS-64 (PCGS). Brilliant and very lustrous. A very premium piece for the grade, and certainly as nice as many MS-65 pieces this cataloguer has seen in the past. The reverse is not completely struck, and heavy grooves that were part of the original planchet texture remain visible in a band through the center of the coin. These look much like what we would refer to as adjustment marks on an early dollar, for example, but in this case the softness of strike simply did not obliterate the planchet texture as would normally occur.

Superb Gem Proof 1903 $1

559 **1903 Proof-66 (NGC).** Essentially brilliant, with just a hint of gold at the borders. Virtually all design features are sharp, save for a few strands above Liberty's ear. The fields are glittering mirrors and the devices are satiny. Certainly in the upper echelon of survivors of the issue, which consisted of a scant 755 Proofs.

Lovely Gem Proof 1904 Dollar

560 **1904 Proof-66 (NGC).** A gem example having brilliant centers and pale gold at the borders. Very nearly a twin of the Proof-66 1903 dollar offered above, in terms of aesthetic appeal, but with a considerably lower mintage — just 650 examples. Virtually all design features are sharp as could be desired save for a few of strands of hair above Liberty's ear. The devices are satiny, and the fields are deep mirrors.
NGC Census: 29; 13 finer (Proof-68 finest)

561 **1924-S MS-64 (PCGS).** Brilliant and frosty. A lovely example showing an impressive degree of eye appeal. The 1924-S ranks as one of the scarcest issues in the Peace dollar series at the MS-64 grade level, and is worthy of a generous bid as such.

562 1928-S MS-64 (PCGS). Highly lustrous and mostly brilliant save for soft blushes of champagne toning and faint magenta at the rims.

TRADE DOLLARS

Trade dollars, once ignored, have come into their own, especially in superb Mint State grade. Our brief offering of these fascinating coins, intended for heavy circulation in the Orient, includes a few *stars* – coins that would be highlights in any collection – like Proof specimens of 1873, 1878, 1879, and 1882, among which the 1878 and 1879 can be singled out as impressive Proof-66 examples. An 1875-S is relatively common in low grades but is a serious challenge in gem condition, as here offered, and the 1877-CC is an even greater challenge, with the example in our sale among the very finest we have encountered, a lovely MS-64 (NGC) that is sure to see a great deal of interest from those enamored of this distinctive series.

Choice Proof 1873 Trade $1

563 **1873 Proof-63 (PCGS).** A choice Proof from the first year of trade dollar coinage. The obverse exhibits a warm mix of pale lilac, gray, and gold, while the reverse is uniformly toned in deep lilac and gunmetal-blue. Some striking weakness on the reverse, chiefly at the eagle's left leg. From a Proof mintage for the date that has been variously "guesstimated" at 600 pieces, or 865, or perhaps 500 Proofs. Q. David Bowers delved deeply into all the possibilities in his landmark *Encyclopedia*. Proof mintage figures aside, the present date is quite rare in Proof, and is also highly popular as the first year of the design type.

Quoting Q. David Bowers again, regarding the obverse die of the present coin we note "there is a fairly deep die scratch extending straight from the bottom left segment of the bale, at an angle slightly upward through the folds of Miss Liberty's gown terminating in the waves of the sea. Although this prominent feature has been ignored for many years, it was mentioned by Lyman H. Low in the description of an 1873 Proof trade dollar in the R. T. Rose Collection Sale, September 9-10, 1909." In that catalogue, Low wrote "a distinguishing feature of this specimen is a well defined line (in the die) through outer skirt of Liberty, extending from the cotton bale to water."

564 **Group of trade dollars representing all three issuing mints:** ☆ 1873 AU-50, lightly cleaned ☆ 1873-S AU-50 ☆ 1876-CC VF-20. Type I/II ☆ 1876-S AU-50. Type II/II ☆ 1877 (2). VF-30, and VF-20, cleaned ☆ 1877-CC VF-20, cleaned ☆ 1877-S EF-45 ☆ 1878-S Doubled Die Reverse. AU-50, lightly cleaned. (Total: 9 pieces)

Superlative 1875-S Trade $1

565 **1875-S Type I/I. MS-65 (NGC).** Fully lustrous, with most design features showing bold definition except for a trifle of striking softness at the eagle's claws and at Miss Liberty's hair. The obverse has warm intermingled coppery gold and lilac toning. The reverse is mostly pearl gray with blushes of pale champagne. Certainly one of the finest examples a quality-conscious collector could hope to find for inclusion either in an outstanding trade dollar collection or extraordinary type set.

Two different types of reverses have been recorded for the year: on Type I reverses, there is a berry under the eagle's left (viewer's right) claw, and on Type II reverses, there is no berry at that location.

566 **1876-S Type I/I. Chopmarked. MS-63 (PCGS).** A handsome lustrous example with blushes and splashes of golden brown and russet toning. Most design features are sharp including the obverse stars, all of which show their divisions. The chopmarks on this example can be seen by the eagle's shins.

Impressive 1877-CC Trade Dollar
Choice MS-64 (NGC)

(2x photo)

567 **1877-CC MS-64 (NGC).** Sharp and lustrous with some lively golden highlights at the rims. An impressive trade dollar from Nevada's capital city mint. One glance will suffice to let interested parties know the present coin is easily among the finest known examples of the date. NGC has certified just *one* example of the date at a finer grade (and that coin is probably locked away in a specialized collection), making the present coin an ideal selection for those in pursuit of only the finest coins for their collections. By way of comparison, the present coin is finer than the Eliasberg specimen (and most others that are liable to come to auction in the future). Attractive, accurately graded trade dollars have been among the hottest areas of the recent coin "bull" market, and we suspect the bidding activity that greets this lot will prove that statement to be true.

NGC Census: 7; 1 finer within the grade designation (MS-65 finest).

Gem Proof-Only 1878 Trade Dollar

568 **1878 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A richly and boldly toned gem Proof trade dollar with visual impact its strong suit. The languid lilac center of the obverse fades to deep gunmetal-blue at the rims, while a central burst of brilliance on the reverse is encircled by the same toning hues seen on the obverse. A cameo, though not noted as such on the holder. One of 900 Proofs of the date produced in Philadelphia without attendant circulation strikes (the branch mints in Carson City and San Francisco did, however, strike trade dollars for circulation in 1878, the last year *any* trade dollars were coined for that purpose). Careful examination under low magnification reveals a virtually flawless gem coin that exhibits the tiny, intricate details of what is almost certainly William Barber's most artistic contribution to American coinage. If you need further enticement, we should mention that PCGS has only certified *one* example of the date at a finer grade. A beauty!

PCGS Population: 10; 1 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 finest).
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Superb Gem Proof 1879 Trade $1
Proof-Only Issue

569 **1879 Proof-66 (NGC).** A splendid gem having sharp frosty devices and glittering mirror fields. The central areas are brilliant, deepening to a pleasing gold shade at the borders. The 1879 is an especially desirable date because of its status as a Proof-only issue. A mere 1,541 examples were coined , and doubtless many of these were mishandled and even spent subsequent to the time of issue. A prize certain to appeal to virtually every aficionado of 19th-century numismatic delicacies.

Choice Proof 1882 Trade $1

570 **1882 Proof-63 (PCGS).** Sultry wisps of pale champagne grace the frosted obverse motifs and mirror fields, while the reverse presents a similar toning scheme but with a deeper cameo contrast present. A Proof-only date, one of 1,097 pieces struck.

PROOF SETS

For those who enjoy Proof coins, this sale should prove a real temptation, as lot after lot of *choice* Proof specimens in many denominations are offered within their sections. For the connoisseur, there can be no greater delight than a complete Proof set of a given year – such sets from a century (or more) ago are rarely still together and are typically seen in only advanced cabinets. We are pleased to offer three Proof sets, offered as individual coins with the opportunity to buy the entire set with one bid after the initial lots are sold provisionally. The 1864 set, struck during our nation's darkest hour, is an extraordinarily well preserved set. The cent is the lowest graded piece in the set – and it is a Proof-66! Full Proof sets *with gold* from 1898 and 1908 offer a rare opportunity. The gold pieces in the sets are exemplary specimens from very low mintages – majestic items that carry a pride of ownership second to none in American numismatics. If ownership of a complete classic American Proof set is a goal, the present sale offers three important opportunities.

1864 PROOF SET

Gem Proof 1864 Indian Cent
Copper-Nickel Format

(2x photo)

571 **1864 cent. Copper-nickel. Proof-66 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** A superb gem Proof, comfortably finer than the vast majority of specimens which have survived from the original mintage of 370 pieces in this composition. Sharp frosty devices set against reflective fields offer very attractive cameo contrast. The surfaces are quite remarkably pristine, while the soft rosy color is very pleasing to the eye. Certainly one of the finest copper-nickel Indian cents that this cataloguer has had the pleasure of handling, and tied for the finest certified of the date, taking both NGC and PCGS into account.

A small lint mark is visible near the center of the Indian's portrait, but close inspection reveals little else in terms of noteworthy marks.

NGC Census: 2; none finer.

Each of the lots from 571 through 577 will be sold on a provisional basis. After Lot 577 is sold provisionally, the total for lots 571 through 577 will be computed, 5% will be added to the total, and this will constitute the opening bid for Lot 578. If the opening bid is met or exceeded, the provisional awards for lots 571 through 577 will be canceled. If it is not met or exceeded, then the lots will be sold at the provisional award prices.

Amazing Gem Proof 1864 Silver Three Cents

(2x photo)

572 **1864 silver three cents. Proof-67 (NGC).** A boldly struck gem with full execution of even the finest detail of the design. The left half of the obverse is a vibrant blue with highlights of violet and flecks of silver brilliance. The right is predominantly rich silver with soft flecks of green and blue throughout, creating an exceptional visual display. The reverse is brilliant silver at the center, with arcs of golden brown and blue toward the peripheries. Some original planchet lines and marks are visible under close inspection, but to closely inspect this piece is simply to better see a truly gorgeous silver three-cent piece. A nearly flawless example.

NGC Census: 8; 1 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68).

Each of the lots from 571 through 577 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 571.

Gem Proof 1864 Half Dime

(2x photo)

573 **1864 half dime. Proof-66 (NGC).** Pleasing lilac and deep blue on the obverse, while the reverse is mostly brilliant silver with soft highlights of golden brown at the rims. The reverse devices are frosty, almost worthy of a cameo notation, while any similar qualities on the obverse are made subtle by the surface toning. A few marks on the reverse are likely responsible for holding the grade back a little, but close inspection reveals them to be natural planchet flakes, as made, and of little significance. A lovely gem example.

NGC Census: 8; 3 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68 finest).

Each of the lots from 571 through 577 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 571

Spectacular Cameo Proof 1864 Dime

(2x photo)

574 **1864 dime. Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Shimmering silver brilliance on the obverse, with a slight arc of golden brown near the rim. The reverse offers a smoothly blended display of advanced toning, presenting nearly the full visible spectrum from sunburst orange to rich blue-green, while traces of brilliance show through. A few natural planchet flakes are noted, as made, but overall the coin offers exceptional quality, both technical and aesthetic. Among the few thousand Liberty Seated dimes that have survived in Proof format, this specimen certainly ranks among the very finest examples; for the date. No examples are graded finer by NGC or PCGS. A spectacular Liberty Seated dime that would be difficult to improve upon.

NGC Census: 2; none finer.

Each of the lots from 571 through 577 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 571.

Spectacular Proof 1864 Quarter

(2x photo)

575 **1864 quarter. Proof-68 (NGC).** Pleasing frosted devices, nearly suitable for the Cameo designation, though the contrast is somewhat obscured by the delightful and highly original toning. Soft russet, lilac, and blue-green are gently blended across the surface, with silver undertones from the reflective surfaces beneath. Over half of the reverse offers full silver brilliance, while the remainder is soft tones of red and blue-green. The nearly flawless surfaces and bold reflectivity add much to the visual appeal. A truly superb example from fewer than 500 pieces originally struck, and in this state of preservation, it stands as one of the very finest Proofs of the date. Not a single piece is graded higher by NGC or PCGS.

NGC Census: 3; none finer.

Each of the lots from 571 through 577 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 571.

Superb Gem Proof 1864 Half Dollar

(2x photo)

576 **1864 half dollar. Proof-67 (NGC).** Bright silver surfaces with a mottled overlay of deep steel gray and blue. The devices are bold and satiny, while the fields are pristine and reflective. A delightful gem Proof, carefully preserved from the mintage of 470 pieces for nearly 140 years. An important rarity so fine, with only a single coin graded higher considering both services.

NGC Census: 2; 1 finer (Proof-68).

Each of the lots from 571 through 577 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 571.

Stunning Proof 1864 Silver Dollar

None Graded Finer

A Landmark among the Liberty Seated Series

577 **1864 dollar. Proof-68 (NGC).** Rarely in a career in numismatics does one have the good fortune to handle such a spectacular Liberty Seated dollar as this. The obverse shield is central to the only area of full silver brilliance on the piece. The remainder of the obverse is vividly toned rich violet, blue, and soft green with tiny silver flecks throughout. The devices are satiny and lustrous, while the mirrored fields are deeply reflective on both sides. The reverse is a little more deeply toned with a similar display of pleasantly blended color and two lighter gray areas above the eagle. Overall the superb quality of the coin combined with the spectacular old time toning creates an aesthetically magnificent effect reminiscent of the coins found in collections such as that of Walter Childs, where such coins were purchased directly from the U.S. Mint and carefully stored and preserved for generations. This coin stands as a landmark among Seated Liberty dollars, and no examples of the date have been certified finer by NGC or PCGS. This specimen is also the cornerstone of this important and spectacular U.S. Proof set.

NGC Census: 3; none finer.

Each of the lots from 571 through 577 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 571.

Extraordinary 1864 Proof Set

578 **Incredible seven-piece Proof set**, including all non-gold denominations for the year save for the two-cent piece, as individually described in lots 571 through 577 above. At this point in the sale, the provisional awards for lots 571 through 577 will be totaled, 5% will be added, and that will constitute the opening bid for the current lot, Lot 578. If this bid is met or exceeded, the provisional awards will be cancelled and the coins will be owned by the successful bidder on the present lot. (Total: 7 pieces)

1898 PROOF SET

Lovely Gem Proof 1898 Indian Cent
Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

579 **1898 cent. Proof-67 RB (PCGS).** A truly lovely gem Proof example of the date, a nearly pristine specimen with satiny devices and mirrored fields. The rich orange gold obverse contrasts nicely with warm deep rose, violet, and blue iridescence on the reverse. Sharp and appealing, and every bit the gem the holder declares it to be! No Proof 1898 Indian cent has been graded higher by PCGS *in any color designation!*

PCGS Population: 2; none finer within the grade designation.

Each of the lots from 579 through 588 will be sold on a provisional basis. After Lot 588 is sold provisionally, the total for lots 579 through 588 will be computed, 5% will be added to the total, and this will constitute the opening bid for Lot 589. If the opening bid is met or exceeded, the provisional awards for lots 579 through 588 will be canceled. If it is not met or exceeded, then the lots will be sold at the provisional award prices.

580 1898 nickel. Proof-65 (NGC). Frosty devices and mirror fields exhibit pale gold and light sky blue toning highlights. A tiny fleck adorns Miss Liberty's cheek; it presents a minimal distraction and is noted solely for accuracy. Another fleck, this slightly more pronounced, can be seen at 11:00 on the obverse rim.

Each of the lots from 579 through 588 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 579.

Splendid Gem Proof 1898 Barber 10¢

581 **1898 dime. Proof-67 (PCGS).** Frosty, textured devices and deeply mirrored fields. Pale rose and vibrant topaz tones grace the obverse, while the reverse is dominated by smoky slate gray and rich electric blue highlights. Every bit a cameo, though not noted as such on the holder, owing no doubt to the rich toning highlights. Just 735 Proofs of the date were produced. A splendid Proof Barber dime from the waning years of the 19th century, a coin that easily warrants the assigned grade.

PCGS Population: 14; 2 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68).

Each of the lots from 579 through 588 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 579.

Impressive Gem Proof 1898 Barber 25¢
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

582 **1898 quarter. Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** An impressive gem Proof example of the date, a coin with undeniably strong cameo contrast. Heavily frosted motifs seemingly float on deep mirror fields, while splashes of pale champagne toning gather at Liberty's portrait and the rims. A sharp and appealing coin, one that depicts Charles Barber's design in its finest light.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer within the grade designation.

Each of the lots from 579 through 588 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 579.

Important Gem Proof 1898 Barber 50¢
Among the Finest Certified by NGC

583 **1898 half dollar. Proof-68 (NGC).** An important gem Proof Barber half dollar with intense cameo contrast (though not marked as such on the holder). Deeply mirrored fields and frosty motifs exhibit rich splashes of electric gold on the obverse, countered by dusky electric blue and violet iridescence dominating the reverse. A sharply rendered Proof Barber half dollar that will draw more than its fair share of attention, especially in today's quality-conscious marketplace!

NGC Census: 9; none finer within the grade designation.

Each of the lots from 579 through 588 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 579.

Gem Cameo Proof 1898 Morgan $1

584 **1898 dollar. Proof-65 Cameo (NGC).** A lovely gem Proof Morgan dollar, with eye appeal that easily warrants the assigned grade. Heavily frosted design elements and deeply mirrored fields exhibit warm shades of pale golden iridescence. Decidedly choice overall, a coin that will draw a great deal of attention when it crosses the block.

Each of the lots from 579 through 588 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 579.

Extraordinary Gem Cameo Proof 1898 $2.50
Tied for Finest Graded by NGC

585 **1898 quarter eagle. Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** An extraordinary Proof quarter eagle of the highest order, a coin that far exceeds most of the known Proof examples of the date in terms of quality and eye appeal. Deep yellow gold. The heavily frosted motifs appear as though they are chiseled from the planchet rather than struck, and the surrounding fields give the appearance of a liquid sea of dark molten gold on which the design elements are suspended. A true gem by every measure of the word, a coin that exceeds even the superb Proof-67 (PCGS) example of the date offered in Part III of the Harry Bass Collection (Lot 260, May 2000), that coin being one of the finest known of the date. Less than half of the Proof mintage of 165 coins is known today. The catalogue description of the aforementioned Bass specimen notes: "The coin offered here is superb in its aspect and is exceeded in quality by none other of which we are aware." Specialists take heart, as we are now definitely "aware" of a finer specimen, and we are pleased to offer it here for your bidding consideration.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within the grade designation. PCGS, for the record, has graded none higher than Proof-67 in any designation.

As with the Bass specimen noted above, the present coin has a matte-like appearance in the shield details, completely devoid of reflective mirror surface in that part of the design.

Each of the lots from 579 through 588 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 579.

Dynamic Gem Proof 1898 Half Eagle

High Condition Census

Finest Graded by NGC

586 **1898 half eagle. Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** An extremely beautiful gem cameo Proof example of the issue, an unquestionably splendid coin of both exceptional physical quality and dynamic eye appeal. Rich golden yellow frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields form a strong cameo contrast, affording an overall appearance that readily measures up to the assigned grade. And what an assigned grade it is! The Bass specimen (Part IV, Lot 567, November 2000) was a splendid representative of the Proof-64 grade, and the finest Harry Bass found during his long and illustrious collecting days (in fairness to Harry Bass, his was an *exceptional* example for the grade, and probably has since been "upgraded" by one grading service or another). The present specimen is a full *three points* finer on the grading scale than the Bass coin, a fact that dramatically highlights its overall quality. Only 75 Proof half eagles of the date were produced, and perhaps only about half that number, say 30 to 40, can be accounted for today. Of those, the present piece is about as high in the *Condition Census* rankings as any example of the date will ever attain. We expect to see a veritable sea of bidding paddles when this important gem Proof half eagle makes its appearance on the auction block, so be prepared to hoist your bidding paddle high and bid strongly, for the reward will be well worth the effort!

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the grade designation.

Each of the lots from 579 through 588 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 579.

Superlative 1898 Gem Cameo Proof Eagle
Tied for Finest Graded by NGC

587 **1898 eagle. Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Deep golden yellow with highly mirrored fields and delightfully frosted motifs. A superlative example of the issue in all respects, as one glance (or a prolonged examination) will reveal. The cameo contrast is superb, the surfaces are as near to pristine as can be imagined, and the overall eye appeal is head and shoulders above many of its would-be peers. Of the 67 Proofs of the date produced, perhaps just half that number is still available to today's collecting community. Further, of the available pieces, many are known to bear scratches and other types of distractions, and still others are impounded in museum collections. Of the specimens that *don't* fit any of the above categories, the present coin can rightfully be considered a high *Condition Census* piece. For the record, only three Proof examples of the date have attained the Cameo Proof-67 grade at NGC. Whenever a coin of this quality is offered at public auction, the only guarantee of success is steadfast resolve.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within the grade designation.

Each of the lots from 579 through 588 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 579.

Lovely Gem Proof 1898 $20
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

588 **1898 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A splendid gem cameo Proof, though not designated as such on the holder; this specimen was undoubtedly submitted to PCGS before they instituted their "Cameo" designation. Frosty, satiny motifs contrast boldly with the splendid mirror fields, making for an enticing gem in all respects. Additionally, the deep and rich golden yellow surfaces exhibit some deeper highlights at the rims and among the design motifs. One of 75 Proof double eagles of the date produced, with fewer than half that number thought to exist today. As is typical for Proof gold of the era, some of the surviving specimens are permanently impounded in institutional holdings, while others have not endured the stresses of time well. For the record, the present specimen is among the *finest known* Proofs of the date and denomination, readily rivaling the Garrett-Bass coin (Part II, Lot 1924, October 1999) and one other graded Proof-67 by PCGS. Proof double eagles are truly *special* coins, and opportunities to purchase specimens as exemplary as this one are few and far between. Indeed, this piece will no doubt become the centerpiece of an important cabinet. Don't be shy in your bidding; while the meek may inherit the earth, they won't be successful when this impressive gem Proof crosses the auction block.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer within the grade designation.

Each of the lots from 579 through 588 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 579.

Lovely 1898 Proof Set

589 **1898 Proof set. Certified by PCGS.** As individually described in lots 579 through 588 above. At this point in the sale, the provisional awards for lots 579 and 578 will be totaled, 5% will be added, and that will constitute the opening bid for the current lot, Lot 589. If this bid is met or exceeded, the provisional awards will be cancelled and the coins will be owned by the successful bidder on the present lot. (Total: 10 pieces)

1908 Proof Set

590 **1908 cent. Proof-65 RD (PCGS).** Blazing red surfaces exhibit frosty motifs and mirror fields. Some tiny flecks can be seen on the reverse, but the gem characteristics of the coin do much to overcome those tiny distractions. A pleasing gem Proof Indian cent overall.

Each of the lots from 590 through 598 will be sold on a provisional basis. After Lot 608 is sold provisionally, the total for lots 590 through 598 will be computed, 5% will be added to the total, and this will constitute the opening bid for Lot 599. If the opening bid is met or exceeded, the provisional awards for lots 590 through 598 will be canceled. If it is not met or exceeded, then the lots will be sold at the provisional award prices.

591 1908 nickel. Proof-65 (PCGS). Bright silver gray with modest cameo contrast and a hint of pale golden toning.

Each of the lots from 590 through 598 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 590.

592 **1908 dime. Proof-66 (PCGS).** Frosty steel gray devices and reflective fields exhibit splashes of vibrant gold, violet, and sky blue toning. One of 545 Proofs of the date struck, a very low production number when compared to other dates within the design type; only three other dates have lower Proof mintages. A lovely piece that will greatly appeal to those who appreciate vividly toned coins.

Each of the lots from 590 through 598 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 590.

Gem Proof 1908 Barber Quarter

Moderately Toned

593 **1908 quarter. Proof-67 (PCGS).** Reflective fields and moderately frosted motifs are the order of the day for this gem Proof Barber quarter. Subtle splashes of pale pastel lilac, violet, gold, and blue mingle warmly with mint brilliance on the obverse, while richer shades of violet, gold, and carmine adorn the reverse. From a Proof mintage for the date of 545 pieces, the fourth lowest Proof production run in the Barber quarter series.

PCGS Population: 9; 5 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68).

Each of the lots from 590 through 598 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 590.

Gem Proof 1908 Barber Half Dollar

594 **1908 half dollar. Proof-67 (PCGS).** Lightly frosted motifs and mirror fields make for an impressive gem Proof Barber half dollar. Violet, sea green, rose, and gold iridescence joins mint brilliance in a colorful obverse pastiche; nature's paint brush adorned the reverse in much the same way. One of 545 Proof half dollars struck in 1908; only three other dates in the series had lower Proof mintages. A splendid opportunity for the collector who appreciates both gem quality and rich, original toning.

PCGS Population: 9; 3 finer within the grade designation (Proof-68).

Each of the lots from 590 through 598 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 590.

Gem Matte Proof 1908 Indian $2.50

First Year of the Design Type

595 **1908 quarter eagle. Matte Proof-65 (PCGS).** An attractive gem Matte Proof Indian quarter eagle from the first year of the design type and, coincidentally, the first year of matte or "sandblast" finishing of Proof dies for coinage production. A satiny honey gold specimen with strong underlying lustre and impressive overall quality for the assigned grade; even careful examination under low magnification fails to reveal any blemishes of consequence. One of 236 Proofs of the date produced, a sizeable mintage that perhaps reveals a bit of optimism on the part of Mint officials: the mintage was significantly higher than most Proof quarter eagle issues of the decade before, but, as noted in Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia* "many [were] reportedly melted January 2, 1909." The following year, the enthusiasm waned, and only 139 Proof quarter eagles were made. Perhaps 50% or so of the 236 Proofs of this date are presently known. Of course, it is fortuitous for today's collectors that such a sizeable quantity of Proof 1908 Indian quarter eagles was produced, as specimens do enter the marketplace from time to time, but rarely are they as fine as this example.

Each of the lots from 590 through 598 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 590.

Landmark 1908 Matte Proof Indian $5
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

596 **1908 Indian half eagle. Matte Proof-67 (PCGS).** An extraordinarily lovely Matte Proof Indian half eagle from the initial year of the design type (the presses in Philadelphia and Denver were busy in 1908, striking Liberty *and* Indian half eagles as Proofs in Philadelphia, and as circulation strikes at both mints). Deep and lustrous honey gold sandblast surfaces exhibit intense blasts of bright orange iridescence in the recessed areas of Bela Lyon Pratt's classic *incused* design. A stunning gem specimen from a mintage for the date of 167 Matte Proofs. Of those, perhaps half that number exists for the enjoyment of today's collecting community. Suffice it to say the present landmark coin is one of just *two* Proof-67 examples of the date certified by PCGS, with *none graded finer!* This example has strong claims to *finest known* status, as the other Proof-67 specimen would have to display a "ton" of eye appeal and physical character to compete with the present coin. This delightful example will *automatically* be a focal point of the next collection it graces, and it is a clear highlight in the Proof set if one lucky bidder is able to purchase the set intact.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Each of the lots from 590 through 598 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 590.

Superb Matte Proof 1908 Indian Eagle

With Motto

None Graded Finer by PCGS

597 **1908 eagle. With Motto. Matte Proof-66 (PCGS).** An undeniably beautiful Matte Proof Indian eagle, struck in the first year of the type with the motto IN GOD WE TRUST as part of the reverse design (all Proofs of the date are of the With Motto type). Warm honey gold surfaces display olive highlights and a halo of rich orange iridescence at the rims. Careful examination under low magnification reveals surfaces that seem to scintillate with the glow of countless thousands of tiny jewels, the end result of the matte or "sandblast" finish. The "*other*" design by Augustus Saint-Gaudens; many collectors today feel his Indian eagle type, as represented here, also deserves mention when America's most beautiful coin types are discussed. While 116 Matte Proofs of the date were produced, not even half the mintage is currently known. Of the known survivors, very few are in a class with the present gem where grade is concerned, and it would definitely take one spectacular gem to compete where beauty is concerned! The present gem would be a highlight in any gold coin collection or well-formed set of Proof coins.

PCGS Population: 9; none finer.

Each of the lots from 590 through 598 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 590.

Gem Matte Proof 1908 Double Eagle

With Motto

Just One Graded Finer by PCGS

598 **1908 double eagle. With Motto. Matte Proof-65 (PCGS).** A pale olive-gold gem Matte Proof specimen, a coin that displays an abundance of warm yet subtle lustre. A sharp and attractive example of Charles Barber's modified treatment of the original Saint-Gaudens design; here it is brought up to much finer advantage by the proofing process, and thus appears far superior overall to a circulation strike of the date from Barber's modified shallow relief dies. One of 101 Matte Proofs of the date produced, with only a modest proportion of the mintage known to today's collectors. Of the survivors, many are known with physical detractions and blemishes, but such is not the case with the present gem. In fact, the specimen we offer here is among the finest certified by PCGS, making it ideal for a quality-conscious collection of double eagles or a fine inclusion in a Proof type set.

PCGS Population: 14; 1 finer (Matte Proof-66).

Each of the lots from 590 through 598 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 590.

Lovely 1908 Proof Set

599 **1908 Proof set. Certified by PCGS.** As individually described in lots 590 through 598 above. At this point in the sale, the provisional awards for lots 590 and 598 will be totaled, 5% will be added, and that will constitute the opening bid for the current lot, Lot 599. If this bid is met or exceeded, the provisional awards will be cancelled and the coins will be owned by the successful bidder on the present lot. (Total: 10 pieces)

ERROR COINS

Errors were not always a popular numismatic collectible, indeed, for the first century of American numismatics there were little more than curiosity pieces. In the mid 20th century, enthusiasts like Frank Spadone and Michael Kolman (the proprietor of Federal Coin Exchange/Federal Brand Enterprises) were pivotal in making mint errors coins more than "freaks," but desirable numismatic collectibles that were instructive tools in learning the minting process and rarities on their own merits. Because the error coin specialty was a "late-bloomer" among the diverse pursuits of American numismatics, errors from the 19th century are often great rarities. We are pleased to present *several* major mint errors from this period, delicacies like an 1871 two-cent piece struck on a planchet intended for a nickel five-cent piece, and two of the most dramatic silver dollar errors ever likely to be encountered—the double struck 1923 Peace dollar is an unforgettable item! More modern errors are also present, including popular rarities like the "transitional" 1965 quarter on a silver planchet and a double denomination Sacagawea mini-dollar on a Maryland quarter. Interesting errors in the State quarter series are also offered, including a rather incredible Connecticut quarter struck on a feeder finger! Enjoy this feast of foibles!

600 1899 off-center cent. Snow-1. MS-65 BN (NGC). "Struck 35% Off Center" according to the NGC label. Deep and lustrous chocolate brown. An amazing off-center example of Snow-1, with repunching plainly evident in the lower loop of the second 9—an added treat for Indian cent enthusiasts!

Extraordinary Double Struck 1904 1¢

601 1904 cent. Double struck, second strike 30% off-center. EF-45 (NGC). An eye-catching error coin, and a rarity in the series. Struck once normally, then partially ejected after a rotation of about 60° and struck again 30% off-center at 10:00. This piece entered circulation but was clearly rescued by someone who found it curious before it could be abused or worn to much of an extent. The surfaces are appealing medium brown, a bit darker on the two-tone reverse, and maintain excellent visual appeal. Two full dates are present, no significant marks, minor spot at the two lowest feathers of the second impression. A very nice Indian cent error.

Important 1871 Two-Cent Error Rarity

Struck on Nickel Five-Cent Planchet

(2x photo)

602 1871 two cents struck on nickel five-cent planchet. 4.8 grams. AU details, damaged (NCS). Dusky matte nickel gray with some faint striations. Solidly struck upon the hard nickel planchet, all design elements present though some areas show flatness, nearly perfectly centered upon the oversized five-cent planchet with more than half of the denticles present, those on the left side of both obverse and reverse. Several short, heavy scratches are present at the base of the obverse shield, one of which affects the 7 of the date, and a tiny circular dig is noted to the left of the date. This "damage" almost certainly remains from a crude attempt to determine the composition of this most unusual and very rare coin.

Wrong planchet errors are among the most avidly collected among all mint errors, with many of the more unusual pieces having been classed as patterns over the years as well. Nearly all known wrong planchet errors consist of a coin struck on a planchet intended for a smaller denomination, unlike this piece struck upon a slightly larger than normal planchet intended for a higher denomination coin. **Only two examples of this error, a two-cent piece struck on a nickel five-cent planchet, have been reported**, though this is the only example we know of to have been offered publicly. Major errors on 19th century type coins are beginning to garner the attention and value levels they deserve based upon their rarity. This prize could be the centerpiece of any collection focusing on misstruck coins or the two-cent denomination.

Rare 1890 Dime Off-Center Error

(2x photo)

603 1890 dime struck 35% off-center. AU-50 (PCGS). Attractively toned deep gray with splendid blue on the obverse and subtle golden highlights on the reverse. Some light striations are noted on the unstruck portion, only insignificant signs of circulation. Boldly misstruck at the 10:00 position, leaving a complete four digit date on the planchet though the mintmark area is not present. Seated Liberty dimes are rarely seen so far off-center and are scarcely seen at all. An impressive error coin.

Rare 1965 Silver Quarter
Transitional Error

(2x photo)

604 1965 quarter struck on 90% silver planchet. 6.2 grams. AU-50 (NGC). Pale silver gray with much lustre remaining. Good eye appeal, some flatness of strike noted typical of the issue and consistent with the fatigued and flowlined state of the dies. A significant rim cud is present on the obverse from left of the first date numeral to below T in TRUST. Only trivial contact marks and hairlines are noted.

An historically important and very rare transitional error, the abrupt end of silver coinage in 1965 in favor of fiat cupronickel clad coinage left behind only a tiny number of coins bearing the new date struck on outmoded silver planchets. Both dimes and quarters dated 1965 are known struck in 90% silver; such pieces were struck late in that calendar year since coins struck in the first several months of 1965 continued to be dated 1964 and struck in silver in expectation of the passage of the Coinage Act of 1965. Struck after what was perhaps the most significant piece of coinage legislation since 1792, the silver transitional errors of 1965 represent a unique point on the continuum of American coinage history. A centerpiece to an advanced Washington quarter collection, a mint error whose fame and interest continues to grow.

Extraordinary CT 25¢ in Aluminum
Struck on a Feeder Finger!

605 1999-P Connecticut quarter struck on aluminum scrap, a broken portion of a feeder mechanism. MS-64 (PCGS). Bright silvery lustre shines through fatigued portions of the aluminum scrap, glossy black finish persists over much of the surfaces. Struck on a misshapen broken section of a feeder finger with two broken, irregular edges and two edge surfaces more or less rounded. About 85% of the surface area of the dies is present, including the complete word CONNECTICUT, both dates, and a complete Philadelphia mintmark. While the vast mintages of state quarters led to many errors escaping the Mint, some quite unusual, this is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating forms of struck aluminum scrap we have encountered and one of a very small number of struck feeder fingers we know of. Apparently the lightweight aluminum feeding mechanism, an essentially disposable and easily replaced part, simply broke off after either being stressed by foreign material or through fatigue; it then entered the die chamber and was ejected as struck material in the vague shape of a Connecticut state quarter. A fascinating artifact of the minting process gone awry.

Pennsylvania 25¢ on Experimental Blank

606 1999-P Pennsylvania quarter. Struck on experimental planchet. MS-67 (PCGS). Bright brassy yellow with bold lustre. Planchet shows evenly spaced fine parallel striations on obverse and reverse, strike is especially sharp with all details well developed, some subtle toning present. Initially appearing more like an arcade token than a State quarter, this Pennsylvania was coined in an experimental composition that was under consideration by the U.S. Mint for the Sacagawea "golden dollar" of 2000. In their attempts to find a "golden" metal which resisted tarnish yet was appropriate to strike a large volume of coins, the Mint tested many different alloys. This particular composition was not used to strike the Sacagawea dollars, but a small number of State quarters are known with this unusual shade and appearance. A rare trial piece, one of fewer than a dozen known, that evokes some of the more fascinating pattern coins of a long-ago era.

Choice Off-Center 1898 $1

607 1898 dollar struck 5% off-center. MS-64 (PCGS). Superb cartwheel lustre on lively surfaces exhibiting silver and pale violet toning. Excellent surface quality for the grade with no significant marks. Struck off-center to the 3:00 position, with the denticles on the right side of the coin interrupted at the edge. Morgan dollar striking errors are rare and popular, and very few indeed are anywhere near as attractive and well preserved as this one. Ideal for an error coin type set.

Dramatic Off-Center Morgan Dollar

(2x photo)

608 **Undated Morgan dollar. Struck 25% off-center. EF-45 (NGC).** A very desirable major error in the Morgan dollar series. Even silver gray with a hint of golden toning on the reverse, much remaining lustre for the assigned grade. Some light hairlines are noted, not atypical on an error such as this that was often "conserved" by non-numismatists who enjoyed such pieces for their value as curiosities. Boldly and dramatically misstruck to due south, 6:00, by a margin of 25%. This has, unfortunately perhaps, left the coin dateless but extremely eye-catching. This is one of the most seriously off-center Morgans we have encountered. The mintmark area is present and empty. No significant marks are present on either the struck portion or the unstruck portion.

Major errors in the Morgan dollar series are rarely found in the marketplace – the few specimens of this severity extant usually find their way into a collection and remain a point of pride for years instead of bouncing from dealer to dealer until they finally find a home. As such, collectors who would seek to include one in their holdings would be best served to bid strongly instead of waiting for the next time.

From the Milt Cohen Collection of major errors. Cohen was one of the first collectors to systematically assemble a serious collection of error coins and owned many spectacular pieces; his cabinet was dispersed by Natalie Halpern in 1981.

Stunning 1923 Double Struck Peace Dollar
A Major Error

(2x photo)

609 **1923 dollar. Double struck, first strike 40% off-center. MS-64 (PCGS).** Frosty and brilliant, untoned and exceptionally attractive with full lustre and no significant marks. A beautiful Choice Mint State coin with gem quality visual appeal. One of the single most impressive Peace dollar errors in existence. Struck once dramatically off-center to due south, 6:00 on the obverse, with the eye

of Mrs. DeFrancisci present just inside the rim, then fed again into the coining chamber to be struck normally. ONE DOLLAR from the first impression is nearly complete on the reverse, and Liberty's rays are plain on the neck of Liberty from the second impression. The effect is eye-catching, to say the very least.

Long held privately and never before offered at public auction, this coin will create excitement and feverish bidding among major error collectors. Morgan and Peace dollar errors are among the rarest error coins by type – the errors that do appear in the marketplace are apt to be minor off-centers or similar items. Peace dollar errors are significantly rarer than those in the Morgan series, and double strikes such as this one are all but unheard of. No more than a handful – three to five – double strikes of this dramatic nature are known in the entire Peace dollar series, and we have no records of one being sold publicly in recent memory. An important offering for Peace dollar or mint error enthusiasts.

Rare 40% Silver 1974-D $1

610 **1974-D dollar struck on 40% silver planchet. Breen-5761. MS-62 (PCGS).** Excellent cartwheel lustre on bright silvery surfaces. Some light field abrasions account for the assigned grade, but none are serious and the eye appeal is excellent. Boldly struck. A very rare variety, a Denver Mint product struck on a silver-clad planchet intended for use at the San Francisco Mint. Breen gave this off-planchet error a separate entry in his *Encyclopedia* and suggested that about 30 pieces were known, the first "discovered by a Las Vegas blackjack dealer." The dealer announced his discovery in the October 10, 1974 issue of *Coin World*. Confirmation from the Mint of the variety was forthcoming, stating that the planchets were "rejected as unfit for Proof coinage" and shipped from San Francisco to Denver accidentally among a group of usual cupronickel blanks. The variety remains rare today, and is a distinctive variety among Ike dollars, now meriting mention in recent editions of the *Guide Book*.

611 **1999-P dollar. Struck 50% off-center. MS-62 (PCGS).** Bold lustre on bright silver gray surfaces, the reverse shows some faint champagne toning. An ideal off-center specimen of this final Susan B. Anthony dollar, struck after an 18 year gap in production that exceeded that in the Morgan dollar series by a year. The strike is oriented to 1:30 to a dramatic degree, far more off-center than typical misstrikes, but still allowing for a mintmark, full date, and designer's initials on the struck area. The assigned grade, despite gem quality eye appeal, was no doubt given because of a long scratch through star 3 to the rim of the unstruck portion at 6:00, a scratch probably caused by a coin counting machine. Of course, the workman clearing the jam was probably thrilled to find that this coin was the cause! A nice addition to any error collection.

2000 $1 Double Denomination Error
Struck on Maryland Quarter

612 **2000-P Sacagawea dollar. Struck over 2000-P Maryland quarter. MS-65 (NGC).** Full silvery cartwheel lustre on choice surfaces, lightly toned a subtle golden tone. Few marks of any kind, a boldly struck gem. A challenging double denomination error, apparently struck during or soon after the 10-week window during which Maryland quarters were struck in 2000. Only a small number of Sacagawea mini-dollars are known as double denominations, though fewer still exhibit this kind of superb eye appeal. The present specimen shows a clear mintmark from the quarter undertype on the papoose and the 2000 date of the quarter is present at the bottoms of ERIC of AMERICA on the reverse. A significant opportunity for the mint error specialist.

Desirable Double Struck Sac $1

613 **2000-P Sacagawea dollar. Double struck, 2nd strike 20% off-center. MS-66 (PCGS).** Eye appeal and pristine surfaces befitting the grade, rich golden tone with resplendent lustre. Struck once normally, partially ejected with a 35° rotation, then struck again 20% off-center at 9:00 of the original strike. Sacagawea errors continue to be very popular among collectors, and double strikes of this magnitude are scarce. The present example is dramatic and attractive.

614 **1999-W $5 eagle. Struck from unfinished Proof dies. MS-70 (NGC).** Fully lustrous golden yellow with a frosty, matte-like appearance. Struck at the West Point Mint as a Proof issue, though the dies were not properly prepared for the usual highly reflective Proof finish and the surfaces are not similar to those found with any Proof finishing process of the past or present. A highly attractive, indeed flawless, specimen of this modern rarity.

GOLD DOLLARS

Beginning in 1849, the gold dollar series came in with the Gold Rush and remained a part of American commerce for an unbroken span of 40 years. Three major types were struck, using the facilities of five different mints. Among those active in the period, only Carson City never struck a gold dollar. This continuity and diversity has made the series a popular one, with enough pieces available in high Mint State grades to satisfy the type collectors and enough challenging issues that specialists never lose interest in improving their set. Our selection offers something for both groups, with extraordinary Mint State and Proof specimens for those who yearn for near-perfect quality and specimens from branch mints that are exquisite even though they may be *only* AU! One of the finest known Type II gold dollars is herein offered, an amazing MS-67 specimen of the 1855 issue, and a superbly struck example of the famous and historic 1861-D issue of the Confederate States of America is also among the treats you'll find. (All gold dollar photographs are 2x)

Gem Mint State 1849 Gold $1
Close Wreath

615 **1849 Close Wreath, L on Truncation. MS-65 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with satiny surfaces and excellent mint lustre on both sides. Very well struck, with full execution of the design. The beads of the coronet, hair curls, star centers, and fine reverse wreath details are all sharp.

The Close Wreath variety is the second type produced for the year, the earlier production being the Open Wreath variety. According to Breen, the same reverse hub was used in the later production, but the mint had added an extra pair of leaves and berries on either side of the wreath. A few different varieties exist, the present example having heavy date numerals and slight repunching visible.

Flashy 1849-D Gold $1

616 **1849-D Open Wreath. AU-58 (NGC).** Brilliant and attractive, with almost all of the original mint lustre still surviving in the fields. Nice eye appeal for the grade. Only 21,588 gold dollars were struck at the Dahlonega Mint during the year, and survivors of this quality are not easy to find.

Outstanding Gem Mint State 1851 Gold $1
Among the Finest Certified by PCGS

617 **1851 MS-67 (PCGS).** Rich honey gold surfaces display strong lustre with a touch of olive iridescence and deeper golden highlights that add immensely to the overall appeal. This frosty gold dollar is a textbook example of outstanding gem quality. A touch of striking weakness is seen at the center of the reverse, and is the rule rather than the exception on Type I gold dollars. Among the finest circulation strikes of the date available to today's collecting community, and a coin that will certainly draw intense interest from an appreciative gathering of auction bidders. PCGS has certified just *two* examples of the date at a finer grade, making the present coin one of the finest certified 1851 gold dollars currently available. When this superb specimen finds its new home, we suspect its destination will be a world-class collection of U.S. gold coins.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (MS-68).

618 **Gold dollar quintette containing all three types:** ☆ 1851 MS-60 ☆ 1852 AU-58 ☆ 1855 EF-45, light hairlines ☆ 1856 Slanting 5. EF-45 ☆ 1874 AU-50. (Total: 5 pieces)

Gem Mint State 1853 Gold Dollar

619 **1853 MS-65 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous with heavy rose and orange iridescence in places, especially so on the reverse. A sharply struck gem Mint State Type I gold dollar, a coin that would easily highlight the design type in any advanced collection.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Lustrous 1853 MS-64 Gold $1

620 **1853 MS-64 (NGC).** Brilliant and frosty. Miss Liberty's hair details and the foliage of the wreath are sharp. Outstanding both techni-

cally and aesthetically, and certainly an excellent candidate for inclusion in a U.S. gold type set or date collection. Worth a generous bid.

621 **All three gold dollar types:** ☆ 1853 MS-61. Frosty honey gold ☆ 1854 Type II. EF-45. Plenty of lustre and all the appeal of a finer grade despite a few faint marks ☆ 1874 MS-60. Bright and lustrous and devoid of heavy marks. A nice threesome. (Total: 3 pieces)

Important MS-65 1853-O Gold $1
Among the Finest Certified by PCGS

622 **1853-O MS-65 (PCGS).** A splendid gem example with sharp frosty devices and immaculate lustrous fields. Despite a comparatively generous mintage of 290,000 pieces, comparatively few were set aside at the time of issue, and of these only a tiny handful survive at the MS-65 grade level, a fact supported by the PCGS population datareported below. The presently offered piece ranks among the most important condition rarities in the sale, and is certain to go be the subject of keen bidder competition.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-66 finest).

623 **1854 Type I. MS-64 (NGC).** Sharply struck with excellent definition of all design elements. Nice lustre and good eye appeal. A tiny scratch is noted just above Liberty's hair bun. Struck from clashed dies that are just beginning to show cracks that became quite extensive as the dies saw heavy use.

Exquisite Gem Uncirculated 1854 Gold $1
Type II
None Certified Finer by PCGS

624 **1854 Type II. MS-67 (PCGS).** An exquisite golden gem Mint State example of this ever-popular and short lived (1854-56) design type. Intense cartwheel lustre virtually explodes on the silky smooth surfaces, bursting forth in all its radiant glory. Add a nuance of deep golden toning and a dash of olive iridescence and the enchantment is enhanced further. From an early state of the dies, here without traces of clashing (a typical characteristic for the date and design type overall), and with bold design elements on both sides. Indeed, the sharpness of strike is so evident on the present specimen that the original engraver's arc at LIBERTY (used to line up the tops of the letters in that word) can still be seen to the left of the top of the L, as can some die lines through TY; this all no doubt was worked from the die after the clashing occurred. The present coin is far and away the finest example of Type II gold dollar coinage this writer (FVV) has ever encountered (and this writer has seen literally hundreds upon hundreds of Type II gold dollars during his numismatic career). For the record, PCGS has not seen a finer example of the date either. In fact, only two examples of the date have received an MS-67 grade from that firm. We expect this beautiful gold dollar to create one of the most intense bouts of bidding activity of the current sale when it takes its turn on the auction block.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Impressive Gem Uncirculated 1855 Gold $1

625 **1855 MS-65 (PCGS).** Bright honey gold surfaces with fluid rose and olive iridescent highlights. A splendid gem Mint State Type I gold dollar in all respects. Struck from faintly clashed dies and somewhat weak at the 18 in the date, as virtually always seen. Some light planchet fissures, as struck (and again, as frequently found for the issue), are noted below Liberty's portrait and at the date on the reverse. A classic design type in "classic" grade, and a coin that will no doubt excite its new owner for years to come.

A spidery network of die cracks is seen on the obverse, their presence heaviest at UNITED and ICA. A reverse die crack runs from the tip of the left ribbon to the dentils at 7:00, then through three dentils, back into the field, and then back to the dentils at 9:00. As a further note of interest regarding the obverse, the letters in UNITED are set in the die at sharp angles to the dentils and to each other, while STATES and OF are broadly and unevenly spaced. In fact, AMERICA is the only word in the legend that is "normal" in its spacing and its upright nature.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Another Splendid Gem 1855 Gold $1

626 **1855 MS-65 (PCGS).** A superlative gem example of the date, with frosty golden surfaces that suggest a finer grade, even when more than a casual glance is applied. Sharply struck in all areas; perhaps as sharply struck as any 1855 gold dollar we have seen. All the details, including the date numerals, are bold and crisp. Some minor die clash marks show on both sides, as are frequently seen in the Type II gold dollar series. A beauty!

Lustrous 1855-O Gold Dollar

627 **1855-O MS-60 (NGC).** The final New Orleans Mint gold dollar, and the only one struck in the Type II design. Typical softness on the figure 8 in the date, but otherwise good sharpness. Lustrous light yellow gold, with some surface marks as expected.

Impressive 1859-D Gold Dollar
Well Struck for the Issue

628 **1859-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Deep honey gold with bursts of brilliant yellow lustre in the recessed areas. A satiny and unusually sharply struck specimen of an elusive and desirable issue. As noted by David Akers, "a collector must be willing to accept one that is poorly struck since that is the only way the 1859-D comes." There are exceptions to every rule, and the present coin is a clear exception to the Akers rule. All the obverse details are bold and crisp, and, save for a touch of weakness at the 5 in the date, the reverse measures up just as strongly. Often considered the most "common" Type II gold dollar from Georgia's mint, one must take into account that "common" here represents a mintage of just 4,952 pieces. Of that mintage, perhaps just 150 to 250 examples survive today in all grades. A popular rarity that will see spirited bidding.

Famous 1861-D Gold Dollar Rarity

Struck by the Confederate States of America

One of the Finest Known Examples

629 **1861-D MS-61 (PCGS).** A superb specimen of this historic artifact of the earliest days of the Civil War. Even, bright yellow gold, the obverse showing deeply reflective fields, the reverse more satiny but exceptionally lustrous. **The strike is as bold as ever found on an 1861-D dollar**, with the U in UNITED fully outlined and the cleft between the uprights plain – an extraordinary characteristic indeed, as a mushy strike is the unifying characteristic among the fewer than 100 known specimens of this emission. The reverse and other areas of the obverse are likewise strong, placing this coin head and shoulders above its brethren in terms of condition and could be considered more desirable than even those that exceed it in terms of numerical grade. No significant marks are seen on this well preserved jewel, just modest hairlines, but a thin diagonal lamination just inside the reverse rim above 9:00 serves as an identifier. The Bass II specimen, itself a MS-62 (PCGS) coin with a far poorer strike, shows a diagonal area of weakness in this identical area, leaving us to wonder if the piece of scrap or laminated material that this piece was struck through damaged the reverse die significantly enough that its impression was transferred to the Bass specimen and possibly others that show a weakness in the northwest quadrant of the reverse. At the time of the sale of that specimen, PCGS had certified only one MS-62 specimen and three MS-63 coins with none finer – a reasonable percentage of what Dave Bowers estimates to be a Mint State population of five to nine pieces. Today, the Population Report has bloated to 4 MS-62s, 5 MS-63s, and an MS-64 specimen! After 100 years of active collector interest in this rarity, it should be clear that another half dozen choice Mint State specimens did not suddenly appear in a few years, but that resubmissions have made such information nearly meaningless. Most specimens in existence today are in grades of EF and below.

While this issue could rest upon its laurels of rarity, especially in Mint State, its historical background has always been its major draw among knowledgeable collectors. Dahlonega, nestled in the mountains of northwest Georgia and today home to a company that relies upon mail-order sales of grits, relied in the early 19th century upon the gold deposits in the surrounding hills – what Mint Director Franklin Peale called "auriferous quartz" and the local (and soon displaced) natives called *talunanneka*, the etymological root of Dahlonega, meaning "yellow money" in Cherokee. The Mint served the local miners, and also processed gold from elsewhere, including the Carolinas and Colorado. The district and its native wealth became of prime interest to the nascent Confederacy when Georgia announced its secession from the Union on January 17, 1861. The dollar dies arrived at the Mint on January 7, 1861. The Mint was fairly quiet in the earliest months of 1861, so the question of allegiance was mostly academic until March when the body that would become the Congress of the Confederate States of America claimed the Mint for their new Confederacy. By the day in April 1861 when Georgia troops took possession of the mint, no dollars had been struck. All 1861-D dollars were struck after that date, making them issues coined by the authority of the Confederacy – the only thing federal about them was their designs.

The genesis of this emission was a unique moment, and a brief one, as the Dahlonega Mint permanently ceased its functions on May 14 and officially closed later that month. No other American coin has a history to compare with that of the 1861-D dollar, indeed, perhaps the coins struck by Roman usurpers, born by necessity in a time of belligerence, have more in common with this issue than any U.S. coin. In a time of coins whose rarity is ultimately fleeting, a well struck Mint State 1861-D dollar stands out as a coin whose desirability is steadfast, limited only by the number of numismatists who discover its remarkable history.

PCGS Population: 3; 10 finer (MS-64 finest). As noted above, these numbers do not pass a common sense test and undoubtedly include duplication produced by resubmissions.

Choice Proof 1863 Gold $1

630 **1863 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Choice surfaces with very slight hairlines noted in the nicely mirrored fields, as expected for the grade. The devices are bold and frosted, creating a pleasing cameo contrast and leaving one to wonder why this piece did not receive the cameo designation. Light orange and rose-gold toning with bright yellow gold undertones. High-grade examples of the 1863 gold dollar are few and far between in either Mint State or Proof format, but choice Proof examples are decidedly rare. Though it is reported that 50 pieces were struck, it is highly unlikely that even half of that original population exists today. A rare opportunity for anyone seeking an example of this elusive date.

PCGS Population: 10; 3 finer (Proof-66 finest).

Choice Mint State 1871 Gold $1

631 **1871 MS-64 (PCGS).** A satiny gold dollar with intense cartwheel lustre and splashes of orange-gold iridescence in the protected areas. Nicely struck save for a touch of weakness near the 8 in the date. One of 3,900 circulation strikes of the date produced.

Extraordinary Gem Uncirculated 1881 Gold $1
None Graded Finer by PCGS

632 **1881 MS-68 (PCGS).** An extraordinary gem Mint State gold dollar, both physically and aesthetically. Intense lustre glistens brightly on rich, deep honey gold surfaces. A sharply struck coin in virtually all areas of the design, with only a touch of weakness seen at the very tops of the last feathers in Liberty's headdress. From a circulation strike mintage for the date of 7,620 pieces, of which no doubt thousands of Mint State specimens could probably be accounted for today. In the eyes of PCGS, however, fewer than 20 examples of the date can claim the assigned grade of the present coin! Harry Bass had a MS-68 example of the date in his collection, and now you, the bidder, have the opportunity to equal the quality that was fine enough for Mr. Bass. A true prize for the specialist or type collector.

PCGS Population: 19; none finer.

Lovely Gem Proof 1887 Gold $1

633 **1887 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A glittering gem Proof gold dollar with rich orange iridescence in abundance on the mirror fields and frosted motifs. Lovely cameo contrast is apparent, though such is not noted on the holder–this coin was probably certified before PCGS began its cameo designation category. A satisfying gem in all respects.

Myriad tiny die lines crisscross the reverse field, especially at the center.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

634 **1889 MS-65 (PCGS).** Frosty golden surfaces show strong lustre and a touch of pale olive iridescence. A tiny fleck is seen in the reverse field after the 9 in the date, otherwise the surfaces are free of detractions of any concern. From the final year of the design type and denomination, and always popular as such. Nicely struck and every bit the gem PCGS thinks it is!

A faint circular reverse die crack runs around the outer circumference of the devices from 5:00 to 11:00, and again from 1:00 to 3:00.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

QUARTER EAGLES

Our selection of nearly 50 quarter eagle lots includes many of the most desirable issues in the series. Type collectors will be pleased with the selection of early issues – including four Mint State "No Motto" pieces – but variety enthusiasts will be interested in a superb example of the rare 1802 Breen-2. The offering of the 1837 Proof quarter eagle, the only one in private hands, is an historic occasion and a chance for any collector to at least *see* the coin, one that may disappear off the market for decades as it did when it was purchased by Louis Eliasberg, Sr. and again when bought by Harry Bass! Many memorable examples from the Southern mints are included in AU or even Mint State grade, and later Liberty issues are highlighted by a specimen of the very rare 1865 and one of the finest Proof specimens extant of the type, a 1901 graded an incredible Proof-69 CAM! Many Choice Mint State Indian quarter eagles round out this exceptional offering.

Attractive AU 1802 $2.50

(2x photo)

635 **1802 Breen-1, B-6118. Rarity-4. AU-58 (NGC).** Even yellow gold with some lustre remaining in protected areas. Scattered tiny contact marks, a bit of shallow roughness at reverse periphery, traces of adjustment seen at central obverse. Dies clashed, some flatness of strike at left rims on both sides. A pleasing specimen of the more frequently encountered of the two varieties of the year.

The reverse die used on this variety was also used to mint 1802 and 1803 dimes.

Rare 1802 Quarter Eagle

Breen-2, AU-58 (NGC)

(2x photo)

636 **1802 Breen-2, B-6118. Rarity-6. AU-58 (NGC).** Rich medium yellow gold with slightly deeper golden toning at the peripheries. Good lustre remains and generous eye appeal, a far nicer piece than most seen of this very rare variety. A dig just under Liberty's chin is the only notable flaw, light adjustment lines visible at soft area of central obverse, reverse likewise shows central weakness as typical. This die marriage is the rarer of the two varieties of the year by a significant margin. The only coin in the three Bass sales of this variety was a VF with altered surfaces, a testament to the importance of the present example; the Bass coin impounded in the ANA Museum is only slightly sharper. This reverse die was used in 1804 on the very rare 13 Star reverse quarter eagles, a coin that approaches six figures in this grade, as well as on 1802 and 1804 dimes. The presently offered coin is new to the marketplace and should see a bright reception among specialists in early American gold issues.

Mint State 1804 Quarter Eagle

(2x photo)

637 **1804 Breen-1, B-6119. 14 Star reverse. Rarity-4. MS-60.** Lively reflective fields exhibit deep yellow gold color and excellent lustre. Some faint reverse adjustment marks are noted, mostly at the left periphery but also within the shield and just below the eagle's tail. Tiny rim nick at ED of UNITED, thin scratch from hair to below eye of Liberty, light scattered contact marks, perhaps lightly polished long ago but very pleasing overall. Above average strike for the issue, the Harry Bass Foundation coin lacks detail at stars 1 through 3 and at the sinister wing tip due to adjustment marks. A very desirable specimen of this date and variety.

This reverse die was used to coin both quarter eagles and 1804 dimes.

Rare 1830 Quarter Eagle

(2x photo)

638 **1830 Breen-1, B-6133. Rarity-4. MS-62 (NGC).** Pale yellow gold with good lustre on lightly reflective fields. A sharply struck and very attractive specimen, very minor diagonal adjustments noted inside shield but all shield lines are well defined, only minor handling marks though we note a tiny nick outside the denticles at star 2. This date was struck using only one pair of dies; the reverse die was first used this year and would be the last reverse die produced for this type – the quarter eagles of 1831 through 1834 all used this die. This type was the last quarter eagle design of the heavy weight or "old tenor" issued before the Coinage Act of 1834, and few survive to the modern day. An exceptional opportunity for the advanced type collector or early gold enthusiast.

From Stack's/Sotheby's sale of the "Dallas Bank" Collection, October 2001, Lot 313.

Exemplary 1832 Quarter Eagle

(2x photo)

639 **1832 Breen-1, B-6135. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).** Frosty pale yellow gold with attractive satiny lustre and shallow reflectivity. A crisp and attractive specimen of this rare issue, some tiny marks near star 3, some light contact points elsewhere. The only die variety of the year, same reverse as the previous lot. While few 1832 quarter eagles appear on the open market, those that do are unlikely to surpass the present example – PCGS has certified only one finer. A prize worthy of a fine cabinet.

PCGS Population: 4, 1 finer (MS-63).

Mint State 1833 Quarter Eagle

(2x photo)

640 **1833 Breen-6136, B-1. Rarity-4. MS-62 (NGC).** Bright and frosty yellow gold with strong lustre and nice overall eye appeal. A touch of central weakness is noted on both sides, and some faint central adjustment marks are noted on the reverse. A rarity in all grades, although a small number of Mint State pieces do exist. Only 4,160 quarter eagles of the date were struck (at the time there was very little demand for the denomination from banks or commerce), and only a small proportion of that mintage can be located today. Walter Breen referred to this design type as "Kneass's Modified Capped Head (1829-34)." As Breen noted in his *Encyclopedia,* this date is "rarer in all grades than 1829-32, much rarer [in] Uncirculated." One of just six examples of the date graded Mint State by NGC, two of them "lesser" in stature than the present coin, and three others at a finer level. Four other dates of the design type—1829, 1830, 1831, and 1832—all have significantly higher Mint State populations in the NGC *Census.* Once again, it sure sounds a lot like *opportunity knocking* to our ears!

NGC Census: 1; 3 finer (MS-67 finest).

A faint die line closes the first 3 in the date, while the top of the second 3 is apparently repunched; that numeral is closed by an even heavier die line. On the reverse, the U in UNITED and the I in AMERICA are boldly repunched.

After the death of Robert Scot in 1823, the Mint hired William Kneass, an engraver of bank note plates, as Scot's successor. According to Breen's comments in his *Encyclopedia* (1988), Kneass was essentially hired "to improve existing designs of all series," which he did beginning in 1828 with the 10¢ denomination, followed in 1829 by half dimes, quarter eagles, and half eagles. Half cents and quarter dollars were similarly improved in 1831.

Remarkable 1834 No Motto $2.50
The First "New Tenor" Quarter Eagle

(2x photo)

641 **1834 Breen-6140. MS-64 (NGC).** Bright yellow gold with swirling satiny lustre, the obverse showing significant reflectivity, the reverse more frosty. A beautiful example of this historically important issue, the obverse showing marks really only in the basined area of the central fields, the reverse exhibiting even less consequential marks and light field hay marks. Some softness of strike on the highest points of the obverse design element, the feathers and stripes on the reverse are ideally and delicately defined. Following the reduction of the weight of gold coins by the Coinage Act of 1834, a drastic and important piece of legislation, this was the first quarter eagle issue struck, coined in the latter portion of the year. High-grade examples are avidly sought, but difficult to locate. Eleven pieces have been certified finer by NGC.

Frosty Near-Gem 1835 $2.50

(2x photo)

642 **1835 Breen-6141. MS-64 (PCGS).** Even deep yellow gold with richer yellow gold at the reverse rims. A lovely coin, a superb specimen of the issue, with only a thin scratch next to star 12 keeping this from the full gem designation. No marks of consequence, far fewer hairlines than seen on even higher graded pieces, some softness of strike at central obverse manifest as a flat curl above ear. Natural planchet depression in gap between STATES and OF. An extraordinary specimen that will thrill a specialist in the series.

PCGS Population: 2 , 2 finer (MS-65).

Marvelous 1837 Quarter Eagle Proof Rarity

Unique in Private Hands

The Parmalee-Mills-Clapp-Eliasberg-Bass Coin

643 1837 Breen-6145. Rarity-8 as a Proof. Proof-66 DCAM (PCGS). One of the highlight rarities of our sale, a coin of great rarity and importance. Heavily frosted central devices contrast sharply with deeply mirrored fields which leave no question about the Proof nature of this impressive jewel. The color is an even light yellow gold, the surfaces are pristine but for some small inherent planchet chips – we can locate no post-striking flaws under magnified scrutiny but for a single hairline under T of UNITED, a tiny spot under the sinister wing, and an insignificant speck in the denticles outside star 4. A long, thin die crack extends from star 8 through the central device to 7 in the date, engraver's scratch at corner of lips. Boldly struck with detail in the hair and ear not usually seen on quarter eagles of this type. The visual presentation of this piece, maintained by collectors whose names we know for over 100 years and collectors whose names are lost before that, is simply a marvel.

Two examples of the 1837 quarter eagle are known in Proof format. This piece is the only one any collector could hope to own, as the other piece traces its provenance to the Mint Cabinet and is today in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. While other early Proof gold coins are extremely rare, three to five examples are known of some of these delicacies (or even more in some rare circumstances) but this piece is **for all intents and purposes unique**. The 1837 half eagle in Proof is present only in the Smithsonian collection, and will never again be owned privately.

Two die varieties are known of the 1837 quarter eagle. Interestingly, the Proof specimens are both struck from the die which features a long die crack, heavy repunching at star 8 and more modest repunching at star 9, and repunching in the 8 and 7 of the date. The varieties are easily distinguished by the position of star 8, as this one points *at* a hair curl and the other one points *between* two hair curls.

Early American gold coins in Proof appeal to numismatists on many fronts: their unique beauty, their extreme rarity, their history of ownership by some of our nation's best known and more storied numismatists. The next owner of this coin has an incomparable responsibility as steward of a coin that, in a literal sense, has no equal in the hands of collectors.

PCGS Population: 1, none finer. This specimen was formerly encapsulated as NGC Proof-66 Cameo; that insert accompanies this lot. At the time of the Bass sale, this coin was certified as Proof-65, and that notation in current population data represents this coin.

From the sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part III, May 2000, Lot 94. Earlier, from Bowers and Ruddy Galleries' sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 104. Eliasberg acquired this coin when he bought the John H. Clapp Collection intact in 1942. Earlier still, from the Chapman brother's sale of the John G. Mills Collection, April 1904, Lot 552. Earlier acquired from New York Coin and Stamp Company's sale of the Lorin G. Parmalee Collection, June 1890, Lot 1071.

Notable 1840-C $2.50

(2x photo)

644 **1840-C AU-55 (NGC).** Lustrous yellow gold with warm honey highlights and bursts of brilliance around the devices. A rare and popular issue from the Charlotte Mint, the present specimen being one of 12,822 examples produced. A lovely coin, one that is not far from inclusion in the Condition Census for the date. Variety with circular lathe lines on the portrait of Liberty (see below). A grand opportunity for collectors of "southern gold."

The circular lathe lines mentioned above, here noticeable mainly at LIBERTY on the coronet and at Liberty's eye area, were discussed in detail by Q. David Bowers in Part II of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection (Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc., October 1999, Lot 326—a sale in which this writer [FVV] is both proud and honored to have played a part). There, Bowers wrote the following: "Under high magnification many *circular raised lathe lines* are seen in the portrait of Miss Liberty, these being particularly evident among the word LIBERTY and on the neck. This phenomenon is very rare in American coinage, although in the course of cataloguing the Liberty Head pieces in the Bass sale we have come across two different dies with it. The reader is referred to the cataloguer's dissertation relating to circular lathe lines as given beginning on page 64 of *A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents,* (written by Bowers) where an 1864 Indian cent with circular lathe lines is illustrated. Thus far, relatively few coins in American numismatics have been identified with such features, although in today's era of research and enlightenment we would not be a bit surprised to see others found." Interested readers are referred to the Bass catalogue and the Bowers reference cited above for further information.

645 **1840-C EF-45.** A pleasing honey gold specimen with deep orange highlights in the protected areas. One of 12,822 examples of the date struck, with the vast majority of survivors from that mintage just VF to EF. As a rule, choice EF and finer specimens are always in great demand, and the present piece should prove to be no exception to that rule.

Memorable 1842-D Quarter Eagle Rarity

Mintage: 4,643

(2x photo)

646 **1842-D AU-55 (NGC).** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with rich honey highlights in the protected areas. Well above average for the date where strike is concerned, with the eagle's right (viewer's left) leg exhibiting nearly full detail. A well respected rarity in all grades, as just 4,643 quarters eagles of the date left the presses in Dahlonega. Specimens encountered today are nearly always VF or less in quality, with Good to EF pieces rare, AU pieces (as here) *very rare,* and Mint State pieces nearly unknown! In fact, perhaps just a few dozen or so examples of the date are known today in *all* grades. David Akers noted the date is "generally appreciated for its real rarity," while Walter Breen called this date "prohibitively rare above EF." From an early state of the only obverse die used for the date, with repunching at the base of the 1 and 8 plainly evident; this later faded from the die with use. Many bidders are sure to test their bidding prowess when this coin makes its appearance in the auction arena, but just one lucky collector gets to take it home; we sincerely hope that fortunate collector is you!

NGC Census: 4; 5 finer (MS-60 finest).

High-Grade 1844-C Quarter Eagle

(2x photo)

647 **1844-C AU-58 (NGC).** Intense lustre radiates on satiny yellow gold surfaces, with rich orange gold highlights in the protected areas and some prooflike reflectivity in the fields. Typically found in VF quality or so, and rare as such, with AU (as here) and finer specimens very rare. Speaking of finer specimens, NGC has certified just a half dozen 1844-C quarter eagles in finer grades than the present coin, none above MS-62 (the grade at which the superb Norweb and Pittman specimens were certified by NGC). Alert bidders are certain to take notice of the splendid opportunity the present coins affords, and we suspect a hearty round of bidding activity will be the order of the day when this prize is offered.

NGC Census: 5; 6 finer (MS-62 finest).

Solid raised horizontal "bars" are seen in the dentils below the 1 and the final 4 in the date, a die anomaly that may not have been noted in the literature before.

Important 1846-D $2.50

(2x photo)

648 **1846-D Normal Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).** A lustrous honey gold specimen with yellow highlights and decidedly prooflike surfaces, especially so on the reverse. Nicely struck with essentially full details in all areas of the design. Normal D mintmark; a variety exists with a doubled D, which was first discovered by Harry W. Bass, Jr. From a very early state of the dies, free of cracks and clash marks (as present on many known specimens of the date, including "doubled D" and "normal D" varieties), and with heavy raised die polish lines on both sides, appearing heaviest on the reverse. A memorable example of the date that will elicit intense bidding activity for its quality and its early die state status as well.

PCGS Population: 7; 5 finer (MS-63 finest).

Low date, 1 considerably closer to dentils below than to truncation above, die anomalies within the 4 and 6. Reverse with heavy, thick die lines from the dentils to the tops of many of the letters in the legend, and with other equally heavy lines around the eagle. The vertical shield lines run well above and well below the borders of the shield, even reaching into the feathers of the arrows.

Mint State 1847-C $2.50 Rarity

(2x photo)

649 **1847-C MS-63 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous rich yellow gold surfaces with pleasing eye appeal. The fields show many heavy die lines from the rather harsh maintenance that branch mint dies often met with. Boldly struck, with excellent sharpness of detail on both sides. A slightly more available date in Mint State, when compared with other dates from the Charlotte Mint, but still a respectable rarity in this grade.

PCGS Population: 6; 6 finer (MS-64 finest).

Condition Census 1848-C Quarter Eagle

The Finest Graded by PCGS

(2x photo)

650 **1848-C MS-62 (PCGS).** A well struck example with bold definition for the issue, apparently among the 25% of the surviving population that Doug Winter estimated to have sharply struck detail. Some die striae are noted on both sides, as often seen. The surfaces are frosty yellow gold with nice lustre and a pleasing look. Some very light hairlines are noted, but these are not particularly distracting or significant on this rare piece. The present example is the only MS-62 graded by PCGS, with none graded finer by this service or NGC. A scarce issue in all grades, but very rare in Mint State, indeed, many advanced collectors have had to settle for a VF or EF specimen after years for looking for a better one, making this an important buying opportunity for the advanced collector.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Exceptional 1849-D Quarter Eagle

(2x photo)

651 **1849-D AU-58 (NGC).** Fiery orange gold surfaces exhibit with intense lustre, creating an overall appeal that immediately draws a viewer's attention. An exceptional survivor from a modest mintage of 10,945 coins. In his *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint 1838-1861,* author Douglas Winter noted "The 1849-D quarter eagle is most often seen in Very Fine and Extremely Fine grades. It is very scarce in the lower About Uncirculated grades and it becomes quite rare in AU-55 and AU-58." He also opined "There are possibly as many as a dozen examples known which have very good eye appeal. The great majority are unappealing with no eye appeal." Whether the present specimen was ever seen by Winter is unknown to us, though we know he would almost certainly have considered it among the "dozen examples known which have very good eye appeal." Once you have viewed this coin, we feel you too will be visually impressed. Regarding the rarity of the date in high grade, while NGC (April 2003) has certified nearly three dozen examples of the date at AU-58, this figure may indicate resubmissions by people interested in obtaining a finer grade—the extreme rarity of this issue in Mint State certainly warrants an attempt to obtain a higher grade than

AU-58 in many people's eyes. If you are currently seeking an 1849-D quarter eagle for your collection but won't settle for substandard quality for your personal collection, then it will serve you well to take a careful look at the present coin!

NGC Census: 31; 5 finer (MS-62 finest).

Base of 1 in date repunched, die roughness around the 4 and 9.

Mint State 1850-C $2.50

(2x photo)

652 **1850-C MS-61 (NGC).** Warm honey gold with lively underlying lustre and traces of olive iridescence. From a small mintage of just 9,148 pieces, with the majority of today's known specimens typically VF or so. David Akers noted that the date was "generally underrated as a rarity" while Walter Breen called the date "extremely rare in AU or above." Nicely struck from repeatedly clashed dies, with evidence of this on both sides around the central motifs. An impressive coin, one that is finer overall than the specimen offered in the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection (October 1999, Lot 430), a coin that was called "the finest that Harry Bass was able to acquire." Need we say more?

NGC Census: 7; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

653 Pair of Liberty quarter eagles representing two different centuries: ☆ 1851 AU-58. Lustrous. First 1 in neck, die line from left foot of second 1 ☆ 1906 Net MS-60; MS-63 but lightly cleaned. (Total: 2 pieces)

654 **1853 MS-63 (PCGS).** Intense lustre on bright orange-gold surfaces. Nicely struck and aesthetically appealing in all regards. A pleasing early Liberty quarter eagle.

On the reverse shield, the vertical stripes are made up of two individual lines. On the present piece, the rightmost line of the second vertical stripe appears as a mere nub at the top of the stripe, while the leftmost line of the rightmost stripe is very thin and tenuous.

Mint State 1856-C Quarter Eagle
Tied for Finest Certified by NGC

(2x photo)

655 **1856-C MS-61 (NGC).** Satiny honey gold with generous amounts of lustre. Nicely struck when you consider that Douglas Winter called this date "among the most poorly struck of Charlotte quarter eagles." Not that the present coin is needle sharp, but the vast majority of the details are at least represented, with areas that are typically weak for the issue stronger than usually seen. From a mintage for the date of 7,913 pieces, of which the typical survivor is usually VF or so. Further, the present coin is tied for finest graded by NGC, a remarkable accomplishment in itself. Definitely a memorable coin that will draw serious attention from Charlotte Mint specialists.

NGC Census: 2; none finer.

The present specimen exhibits what Douglas Winter calls "die rust," here appearing as planchet irregularities. These irregularities may have been from rusted dies, as Winter suggested, or perhaps from detritus clinging to the working dies. Either way these planchet "flaws" are typical for this date.

Lustrous Mint State 1859-S $2.50

(2x photo)

656 **1859-S MS-62 (NGC).** Soft yellow gold with nice lustre and minimal surface marks. Some strike softness is noted on the eagle's right leg, as often found on branch mint quarter eagles of the era. An interesting issue with the date placement noticeably low and to the left of the appropriate position. The mintmark is very heavy and completely filled. Scarce and desirable in higher grades.

NGC Census: 4; 2 finer (MS-65 finest).

Rare 1860-C Quarter Eagle
Final Charlotte Mint $2.50 Issue

(2x photo)

657 **1860-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Rich orange gold with strong overall lustre and bursts of golden brightness in the protected areas. A very pleasing example of the issue, a coin that is both nicely struck for the date and full of eye appeal. One of 7,469 quarter eagles produced in Charlotte in 1860, the final year of the denomination from that institution; after the Confederacy commandeered the southern mints in early 1861, Charlotte never restarted its presses for quarter eagle production (only half eagles were struck there in early 1861). What appear to be natural planchet flaws on the reverse were explained by Doug Winter in his *Gold Coins of the Charlotte Mint 1838-1861* where he noted "many show mint-made roughness on the reverse." This roughness is simply the visual evidence of debris that clung to the die during the production run; many examples of the date display these marks in the same area. Light clash marks are also noted on the reverse. Only *two* examples of the date have received finer grades from PCGS, one each at MS-60 and MS-61. The present coin is remarkable in that it is considerably finer than *any* of the examples of the date that appeared in the Harry W. Bass Collection! Another coin that will see spirited bidding from collectors of Charlotte gold issues.

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer (MS-61 finest).

Desirable 1860-C Quarter Eagle
Among the Finest Certified

(2x photo)

658 **1860-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold surfaces with some light surface marks in the fields and higher points that account for the grade. A fairly typical strike for the issue with some softness, but the major design elements are all nicely defined. The coin shows the typical mint-made anomalies such as roughness in reverse fields and die striations, markers of the single die pair used to strike the total mintage of 7,469 pieces. According to Doug Winter, it is believed that fewer than 100 of these coins are known today, and very few indeed are as well preserved as this. As noted above, this is a great rarity in such superb condition and is all but unknown in Mint State. A great addition to any collection of high-grade Southern gold.

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer (MS-61 finest).

659 1861 Type II Hub. MS-62 (NGC). Rosy yellow gold surfaces with nice lustre and appeal. Liberty's ear is partially filled in, not noticed by this cataloguer before. Struck from the later hub style, as usual for the issue.

Rare and Popular 1862/1 Overdate $2.50

(2x photo)

660 **1862/1 Overdate. AU-58 (NGC).** Deep and lustrous orange gold surfaces exhibit very few marks of consequence. Overdate details plainly seen under low magnification. Perhaps the Civil War caused frugality in the Mint die shop, thus accounting for this overdate (the silver three-cent series also afforded an 1862/1 overdate issue). In his *Encyclopedia* (1988), Walter Breen commented "Possibly 12 known, none Uncirculated." More examples of the overdate have come to light in the ensuing 15 years since Breen's *opus* first saw publication, but the quantity now known is probably still fewer than 50 or so, which makes for a rarity in anyone's eyes! A lovely coin that should fulfill all your desires where the issue is concerned.

The late Aubrey E. Bebee of Omaha, Nebraska, who during his career bought, sold, and owned most of the major U.S. coin rarities (and currency rarities as well), is credited with the discovery of this Civil War overdate. First publicized in the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* (January 1963), the new discovery probably caused readers of the magazine who owned 1862 quarter eagles to take a closer look at their own coins!

Important 1865 Quarter Eagle Rarity
Mintage: 1,520 Circulation Strikes

(2x photo)

661 **1865 AU-53 (NGC).** Deep orange gold with pale rose iridescence and plenty of strong lustre; the stars and other devices are surrounded by areas of prooflike reflectivity. From a scant circulation strike mintage for the date of 1,520 pieces, with the present coin being among the finest examples of the date currently extant. NGC has not certified an 1865 circulation strike quarter eagle in Mint State—in fact, only 16 examples of the date have been graded by that organization in *any* grade. Walter Breen once called circulation strikes of this date "Rarer than Proofs, unknown Uncirculated," a statement that is not far off the mark 15 years after his comments reached print. Additionally, Dave Bowers has noted that the rarity of the 1865 quarter eagle in circulation strike format "is equaled by relatively few other dates in the entire series." But enough input from those readily recognizable numismatic names, for certainly any serious collector or student of the Liberty quarter eagle series knows first hand the rarity and desirability of the issue. It may be some time before a similar opportunity (and *opportunity* it is!) presents itself anywhere in numismatics, so please plan your bidding strategy accordingly!

NGC Census: 1; 9 finer (AU-58 finest).

Choice Mint State 1868-S Quarter Eagle
A Rarity So Fine

(2x photo)

662 **1868-S MS-63 (PCGS).** A very rare issue in Mint State, with typical pieces falling into the VF to EF category. Highly lustrous, rich yellow gold surfaces with minimal surface marks commensurate with the grade assigned. Minor striking softness is noted on the eagle, but most major design elements are fully defined. Likely among the condition census specimens for the date, as precious few are graded finer. An important opportunity, as examples this fine are rarely offered.

PCGS Population: 7; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Lustrous 1868-S $2.50
Among Finest Certified by NGC

(2x photo)

663 **1868-S MS-62 (NGC).** Bright honey gold with strong cartwheel lustre and overall eye appeal that approaches a much higher grade. Nicely struck for the date, with nearly full details, especially on the reverse; only a touch of striking weakness is seen at the eagle's left (viewer's right) talons. Among the finest examples of the grade certified by NGC; only four specimens have achieved higher grades. A date that is typically encountered at VF or so; the present Mint State specimen should draw appreciative bidding.

NGC Census: 3; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).

664 **Pair of NGC-graded Liberty quarter eagles:** ☆ 1891 MS-62. An interesting issue that is struck with a dramatically doubled reverse die, as standard ☆ 1898 MS-63. Both brilliant and lustrous examples. (Total: 2 pieces)

Amazing Gem Cameo Proof 1901 $2.50

The Finest of the Date Certified by Any Third-Party Grading Service

665 **1901 Proof-69 CAM (NGC).** Heavily frosted honey gold motifs seemingly float in a sea of near-black liquid mirrors; the contrast is extraordinary, as you might expect from the assigned grade. Speaking of the assigned grade, if the present coin doesn't measure up to the grade, then there is *no* coin worthy of the grade—at least in this writer's (FVV) opinion! One of 223 Proofs of the date produced, far and away the largest Proof production run of the design type. Despite the large issuance, today's collecting community would find it difficult to account for more than 100 or so examples. Of the known specimens, *none* come close to the present piece where quality is concerned, and you can take that statement to the bank! For the record, NGC has certified just four Liberty quarter eagles *of any date* as Proof-69 CAM—one dated 1898 (PFUC), two dated 1900 (both PFUC), and the present piece. Only occasionally do superlatives escape us where fine coins are concerned; the present coin presents one of those occasions. Simply put, this is the finest Proof 1901 quarter eagle bidders are ever likely to encounter, and only the most stalwart bidder will experience the pride of ownership that is associated with this world-class numismatic item. Let the bidding begin!

NGC Census: 1; none finer in any grade designation.

666 **Quarter eagle foursome:** ☆ 1901 AU-58 ☆ 1905 AU-58, tiny obverse rim bruise ☆ 1908 EF-45 ☆ 1913 AU-50. (Total: 4 pieces)

667 **1903 MS-65 (PCGS).** A highly lustrous gem example of a date that is often selected for inclusion in high-grade U.S. gold type sets.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

668 **Pair of PCGS-certified MS-63 quarter eagles:** ☆ 1903 ☆ 1905. Both are lustrous with rich rose iridescence. (Total: 2 pieces)

Impressive Proof 1904 Quarter Eagle

(2x photo)

669 **1904 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A deep golden gem with deep orange highlights and frosty devices that come oh-so-close to a cameo designation (this date is found close to cameo in Proof perhaps more often than any date of the design type 1902-07). While 170 Proofs of the date were struck, fewer than half can be accounted for today. Walter Breen wrote that this date is "More often than not nicked and scratched and/or cleaned," but one glance at the present coin allays any fears that Breen was thinking of this specimen when he passed his blanket judgment. Only two examples of the date have been graded finer by PCGS. The ready equivalent of the Bass coin (Lot 266, Part III, May 2000), and important as such.

PCGS Population: 14; 2 finer within the grade designation (Proof-67 finest).
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

670 **1905 MS-65 (ICG).** An incredibly brilliant and equally lustrous gem quarter eagle, a coin that would fit nicely in any high-grade type set or quarter eagle collection. Variety with repunching plainly noted on the underside of the flag of the 5 in the date.

671 **1906 MS-65 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous and fully brilliant with a blush of olive iridescence. An appealing gem in all respects.

672 **Selection of Indian quarter eagles:** ☆ 1908 AU-55 ☆ 1909 AU-50 ☆ 1910 AU-58 ☆ 1911 AU-58 ☆ 1912 AU-58 ☆ 1913 AU-55, light obverse scratches ☆ 1925-D MS-60, light blemishes. A nice start to a set of Indian quarter eagles. (Total: 7 pieces)

Key Date 1911-D $2.50

(2x photo)

673 **1911-D MS-61 (NGC).** Frosty honey gold with traces of rose iridescence in the protected areas. A pleasing example of the date in all respects, and a worthwhile representative of the most important key date in the Indian quarter eagle series.

Choice 1914 Quarter Eagle

(2x photo)

674 **1914 MS-63 (NGC).** Pleasing soft yellow gold lustre across satiny surfaces. Minimal surface marks as expected for the grade. An attractive and choice example.

Lustrous 1914-D Quarter Eagle

675 **1914-D MS-63 (NGC).** Struck from clashed and well worn dies, with most of the evidence of clashing now eroded away. Heavy die erosion lines at the peripheries, and several die cracks are evident. A highly lustrous and attractive example.

676 **Pair of choice Mint State Indian quarter eagles.** Both graded MS-63 (NGC): ☆ 1915 ☆ 1929. Both with satiny yellow gold surfaces and nice lustre. (Total: 2 pieces)

Gem Uncirculated 1925-D $2.50

677 **1925-D MS-65 (PCGS).** A resplendent satiny gem example of the final branch mint issue in the quarter eagle denomination. Pale pastel iridescence graces the high points.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem 1926 Quarter Eagle

678 **1926 MS-65 (NGC).** Warm yellow gold with highlights of soft rose and orange. A highly lustrous and quite pleasing example that was very sharply struck. A superb example for type.

679 **1927 MS-64 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous honey gold with satiny surfaces and high eye-appeal for the assigned grade.

680 **1927 MS-64 (PCGS).** Lustrous, nicely struck, and quite attractive.

681 **1927 MS-64 (NGC).** An unusually high degree of mint lustre, and very flashy as such. A premium piece for the grade, well struck in brilliant yellow gold.

682 **1928 MS-64 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous with strong eye appeal.

683 **1928 MS-64 (NGC).** Rich honey gold surfaces with sharp lustre.

THREE DOLLAR GOLD

From the beginning of the series to its end, the Classics Sale includes some extraordinary $3 gold pieces. The series began in 1854, and our offering begins with a pair of very important specimens from that year – a spectacular gem from Philadelphia graded MS-66 (PCGS) and a Choice AU example of the very rare 1854 Dahlonega issue, itself a landmark if not quite as flashy. A choice 1857-S issue (a gold coin that was not represented aboard the *S.S. Central America*) and a gem Proof 1885 require special notice. From the Breck Collection, two examples of the final year of the denomination (1889) are included, one in gem Mint State and the other a gem Proof!

Notable Gem Mint State 1854 $3
Among Finest Graded by PCGS

(2x photo)

684 **1854 MS-66 (PCGS).** A noteworthy gem Mint State $3 gold from the first year of the design type. Frosty honey gold with intense lustre and attractive swaths of rose and pale orange iridescence. An aesthetic treat in all respects, sharply struck and devoid of marks that are detectable to the unaided eye. You can count the number of MS-66 or finer examples of the date that PCGS has certified on your fingers and still have a couple of fingers left over. Why not use those leftover fingers to hold your bidding paddle high when this notable gem crosses the auction block.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer (MS-68 finest).

The 1854 $3 gold coinage is, technically, a one-year-only type issue. On the reverse of the 1854 coinage, the word DOLLARS is in small letters. The reverse die was modified in 1855, and DOLLARS appears in considerably larger letters from that date through the demise of the series in 1889.

685 **1854 MS-62 (NGC).** Warm honey gold with intense rose lustre. An attractive example from the first year of the design type and denomination.

Highly Prized 1854-D $3 Gold
Only 1,120 Struck

(2x photo)

686 **1854-D AU-58 (NGC).** A truly exceptional example of this most highly prized issue among the circulation strikes in the three dollar series. While many 1854-D $3 pieces have a rather dull appearance, this particular example boasts significant mint lustre remaining on both sides, even comfortably beyond the areas typically protected by the devices. The usual softness of strike is apparent. The piece does exhibit some wear on the high points, though most of the major design elements are well defined. Dramatic softness at the denticles, as usual for the issue, with fewer than half of them identifiable on the obverse and only slightly more on the reverse. A relatively high-quality survivor from the original mintage of 1,120, all of which apparently were released into circulation. As American numismatics had yet to reach anything close to a heyday, and Victorian-era collectors generally did not pay attention to different mint marks, the 1854-D was not recognized as a rarity for some time. As such, true Mint State examples (or any pieces approaching such preservation) are very scarce, as these were not saved from circulation early on.

687 **Pair of $3 gold pieces:** ☆ 1856 Net EF-40; EF-45 but lightly cleaned ☆ 1859 Net VF-35; AU-50, but mount removed at 12:00. Repunched 9 variety. (Total: 2 pieces)

688 **1856-S Net AU-50;** quality and sharpness of AU-55, but some scattered marks, perhaps lightly cleaned long ago.

Breen's Medium S variety, die break from base of second L in DOLLARS.

Lustrous 1857-S $3 Gold

(2x photo)

689 **1857-S AU-58 (NGC).** Highly lustrous, bright yellow gold with light rub on the high points and a few scattered surface marks that account for the grade. From an original mintage of 14,000 pieces, though few known today rank finer than this one and Mint State pieces are decidedly rare.

NGC Census: 10; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

It is worth noting that not a single specimen of the 1857-S $3 issue was found aboard the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*. Indeed, only three examples of the denomination were recovered, all dated 1856-S.

Stunning Proof 1885 $3 Rarity
Proof-66 CAM (PCGS)

(2x photo)

690 **1885 Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** Rich deep yellow gold, a beautiful shade, with deeply reflective surfaces contrasting sharply with frosted devices. An immaculate specimen of this rarity within the $3 series, a tiny area of inherent planchet roughness under N of UNITED noted for identification, a few microscopic planchet chips scattered distantly on the reverse. A truly exceptional coin, full of eye appeal, clearly preserved carefully since the time of its purchase from the Mint. Only 109 Proofs were coined this year, a number that outpaces other years in the early 1880s but becomes more significant in light of the tiny circulation strike mintage of 910. A coin for the advanced connoisseur, a piece certain to be admired by any numismatist lucky enough to view it.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer with the CAM designation. A single specimen has been graded Proof-67 by PCGS.

Impressive Gem Proof 1889 $3 Gold
Final Year of Denomination

(2x photo)

691 **1889 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A deep orange-gold cameo (though such is not noted on the holder) Proof from the terminal year of the denomination. One of 129 Proofs produced, though perhaps fewer than half that number is extant today. Regarding this date, Breen noted "Proofs are much rarer than other dates 1882-88." PCGS has seen fit to bestow a finer grade on just three Proofs of the date, making the present coin a Condition Census-level piece. A strikingly lovely specimen that will cause more than a moderate audience reaction when it has its moment in the limelight.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer within the grade designation (Proof-66 finest).
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Mint State 1889 $3 Gold

(2x photo)

692 **1889 MS-65 (PCGS).** A lustrous honey gold circulation strike from the final date of the denomination. An abundance of rich rose iridescence enhances the appeal of this engaging specimen, and a modicum of prooflike reflectivity is seen in the reverse field. A grand coin to represent the denomination in an advanced gold type set, or for any collector who demands great quality within the ranks of his or her collection.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

FOUR DOLLAR GOLD

When a collector thinks of the great American numismatic rarities, the $4 Stella must be among the first that come to mind. For that reason, we're pleasing to offer *two* examples of this classic in our Classics Sale. The first is the finest certified by PCGS, a coin that has made grizzled lifelong numismatists take a step back and proclaim it the nicest Stella they've ever seen. The second piece is itself a gem! Anyone who seeks a superb example of the famous and beautiful Stella has come to the right place.

Conceived by Honorable John A. Kasson, United States minister to Austria in 1879, the $4 gold or *Stella,* was so-named for the star that dominates the reverse design (Latin: *stella*=star). Kasson also served as chair of the Committee of Coinage, Weights, and Measures earlier in his congressional career. He was a staunch advocate of the United States developing a denomination that would be valued and weighed metrically, as used in Europe, and would thus circulate at a par with such well-used world gold issues as the Spanish 20 pesetas, Austrian eight florins, Italian 20 lire, Dutch eight florins, and the French 20 francs. The Committee of Coinage, Weights, and Measures considered Kasson's proposal , forwarding the suggestion that a name "suitable for the four-dollar coin would be 'one stella' analogous to one eagle, both the star and the eagle being national emblems on our coins." Kasson's proposal did not break new ground, for earlier proposals had resulted in Paquet's pattern $5 pieces of 1868 and the later Bickford pattern issues of the 1870s. Foreign exchange rates of the time were seldom constant, and even a denomination such as Kasson's proposed $4 coinage would never precisely fit the exchange rates of the day nor quite match the coins of Europe it sought to compete with — it would still be necessary to make exchange computations and give change using other smaller denominations. Despite this, Kasson's $4 denomination was greeted with congressional enthusiasm. Both Charles E. Barber and George T. Morgan were responsible for designs of the $4 gold piece. Those designed by Barber bore a portrait of Liberty with hair loose and flowing, today called the "Flowing Hair" type, as offered here, while Morgan's design showed a more austere Liberty, hair tightly coiled and coiffed, the "Coiled Hair" type.

Important 1879 Flowing Hair $4 Stella Rarity

Gem Proof-67

The Finest Certified by PCGS

693 **1879 Flowing Hair. Judd-1635, Pollock-1832/3. Proof-67 (PCGS).** A bright honey gold specimen with some deeper highlights on the design devices. Frosty motifs and mirror fields account for a pleasing cameo appearance, though such is not noted on the holder. A nicely struck coin for the issue, with only a hint of weakness in Liberty's tresses above her ear. Faint mint-caused striations are seen at the centers, as is always the case on Stellas; we are not aware of any exceptions to the rule. A tiny fleck is seen on her neck, the only blemish of note. All in all, we are presented here with a true gem Proof example of a rare and popular issue, a coin worthy of the assigned grade and equally worthy of standing alone at that level. From a suspected mintage of 700+ pieces (the *Guide Book* lists the mintage as 425), made for distribution to congressmen and sale to collectors, not to mention private profit by Mint officials or other "insiders." While the mintage of the 1879 Flowing Hair Stella is large in comparison to the other three issues of the design type (1879 Coiled Hair: perhaps two dozen or so made, though Mint records suggest 10 pieces; 1880 Flowing Hair: 15 in the Mint records; 1880 Coiled Hair: 10 in the Mint records), the demand for Stellas of any date is always greater than the supply, for it is an issue that, once purchased, tends to stay in a collection for years. As for the present specimen, it stands alone at the top of the PCGS *Population Report* as the only Proof-67 example graded by that firm. We could go on and on here, but let's cut it short by saying that the present piece is finer than any example of the date seen by PCGS, and is also a "shoo-in" in a collection of "registry" quality coins. An exceptional specimen of one of America's most desirable rarities!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer in *any* grade designation.

Regarding the Judd and Pollock numbers in the above description: Judd called all 1879 Flowing Hair Stella's struck in gold "J-1635." Later research showed that the gold Stellas were produced in two different finenesses, to which Pollock designated two different numbers. The first, P-1832, represents pieces struck at 85.71 fine gold, 4.29 fine silver, and 10.0 fine copper. It is thought that the coins at this fineness level were the first 15 pieces struck. Later, after more and more people wanted examples of the newly proposed design type, some 400+ pieces were produced in .900 fine gold, those being designated P-1833. It is virtually impossible to tell the difference by any means other than specific gravity testing; the weights are slightly different for the two metallic mixes.

Another Gem Proof 1879 Stella
Flowing Hair

694 1879 Flowing Hair. Judd-1635, Pollock-1832/3. Proof-65 (PCGS). Honey gold with rich orange-gold highlights adorning the high points, and with splashes of pale sky blue and rose iridescence scattered here and there on both sides adding to the colorful display. Typical light planchet striations present, here appearing vertically at the center on both sides. A second important opportunity for our bidders to obtain a gem Proof 1879 Flowing Hair Stella.

Following closely on the heels of the finest PCGS-certified 1879 Flowing Hair Stella, as this lot does, is no mean feat, but the gem Proof status of the present coin easily overcomes any shadow that might have been cast by the preceding lot. After all, it is much more than "just" a Stella, it is a *gem Proof Stella,* and represents a golden opportunity for under bidders on the previous lot!

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

HALF EAGLES

There is much to love about the half eagle denomination, as it is home to great rarities (think 1822 and 1854-S) and commonly encountered issues available readily in Choice Mint State. And so it goes with our offering, as there are date rarities (like the 1876 issue), condition rarities (an amazing MS-65 specimen of the 1813 $5, and a superb 1843-D $5 in lustrous MS-63), and popular issues in uncommonly fine condition (1908 Indian half eagles are not rare, but in MS-65 they are in high demand indeed!). Choice Mint State coins from 1805 and 1806 will catch the eye of those who enjoy the products of the First Mint the most, while those partial to the coinage of Charlotte and Dahlonega will find some very special pieces to pursue as well. If Proofs are your prime interest at the moment (and interests always change – perhaps this sale will see you buying something you've never had an interest in before!), there are some superb Proof specimens up for bids, including John Pittman's 1894 $5 in Proof-64 CAM (NGC) and a gem Proof 1895 from the Luther A. Breck Collection. Whatever kind of half eagle attracts you, we hope you find it here.

1798 Large 8, 13 Stars Half Eagle

(2x photo)

695 **1798 Breen 1-B, B-6426. Rarity-5+. AU-58 (NGC).** Even pale yellow gold with reflective fields, especially on the reverse. Scattered contact marks are noted, including one near stars 2 and 3 and another near the mouth, with the visual appeal remaining quite pleasing. Usual heavy die crack under date. A desirable coin for the type collector that finds issues of the 18th century enchanting.

Popular 1802/1 $5
Low Overdate

(2x photo)

696 **1802/1 Breen 1-D, B-6440. Rarity-4. AU-58 (NGC).** Bright and lively yellow gold with definite olive highlights. Frosty lustre resides in the protected areas. Nicely struck for the type, and free of marks that would immediately draw the viewer's eye. In short, a pleasing example of the date, design type, and assigned grade.

On the variety offered here, the date is lower in the field and considerably away from the bust; on another variety of the year, the "High Overdate," the date numerals are considerably closer to the bust above, with the 2 virtually touching the bust line.

Exceptional 1805 Half Eagle

(2x photo)

697 1805 Breen 3-B, B-6445. Rarity-4+. MS-64 (PCGS). A beautiful, frosty specimen that surely ranks among the finest known of the date. Impeccable satiny lustre on light yellow gold surfaces with subtle traces of rich orange toning on devices. Only the most minor contact marks and short hairlines are noted in the obverse field, a nearly pristine and naturally attractive coin. The central strike is bold, as typical, with some flatness in the left stars. The denticles on both sides are fully defined and no adjustment marks are seen, something that cannot be said of the superb Harry Bass Foundation coin on display at the ANA Museum. The die states are a bit earlier than that coin, without the crack from star 4 to the central obverse, though the crack from B in LIBERTY through 0 in the date and another from center to star 13 are both present. An advanced connoisseur of gold coins of this series could not expect to ever locate a specimen that combines technical quality, visual appeal, and a full strike like the coin presently offered.

PCGS Population: 13; 1 finer (MS-65).

Choice Mint State 1806 Half Eagle

(2x photo)

698 1806 Breen 5-E, B-6448. Rarity-3. MS-64 (PCGS). Frosty light yellow gold with rich satiny lustre. A bright and beautiful example of an issue which is often found with significant impairment. Some subtle adjustment marks are present at the left obverse periphery, mostly outside the stars. Some roughness in the intricacies of Liberty's cap, only insignificant hairlines. A choice Mint State example with excellent visual appeal, worthy of inclusion in an advanced collection .

Gem Mint State 1813 Half Eagle
Tied for Finest Certified by NGC

(2x photo)

699 **1813 Breen 1-A, B-6467. Rarity-3. MS-65 (NGC).** Honey gold surfaces support strong lustre and a nuance of pale olive iridescence. A satiny beauty of the highest order, nicely struck and devoid of all but a few trivial marks. Evidence of faint die clash is noted among the letters of LIBERTY on the obverse. The only date of the design type, 1813-1834, that is somewhat available in *any* grade, even up to and including gem Mint State, as offered here; many other dates of the design type are prime rarities among the U.S. gold series. A splendid example of the date and design type, one that will no doubt find a home in an advanced U.S. gold type set or general gold cabinet.

NGC Census: 4; none finer.

700 **1836 Breen-6509. AU-58 (NGC).** Nearly full lustre gives this coin eye appeal above that of its assigned grade, with choice medium yellow gold color. The surfaces show minor contact marks and abrasions in the fields, none individually significant, and a crisp even strike without areas of weakness. About as nice for the grade as one could hope to find.

Nice 1838-D Half Eagle
First Gold Issue from Dahlonega

(2x photo)

701 **1838-D EF-45 (PCGS).** Deep honey gold with warm orange highlights gathered at the rims. A few tiny marks are noted, commensurate with the assigned grade, but free of major marks that draw the bidder's eye. The *first* gold issue from the *second* branch mint to begin coinage operations in 1838. The branch mints at Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orleans all began coinage operations in 1838–they began operations in alphabetical order, which makes for an easy memory key. The only *Classic Head* issue from this popular Georgia branch mint, 20,583 half eagles were struck, of which perhaps just a few hundred examples are extant today. Choice EF coins such as the present piece always draw significant attention when they appear in the numismatic marketplace.

From Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.'s sale of May 1998, Lot 1324.

Choice Mint State 1841 Half Eagle

(2x photo)

702 **1841 MS-63 (PCGS).** Superbly struck with full definition of the design details. The devices are sharp and satiny, while numerous die striations are visible in the fields on both sides, most notably on the reverse. Highly lustrous with hints of rich orange and pale blue toning, increasing the aesthetic appeal. Only 15,833 pieces were struck, and the date is rather scarce. However, the majority of the examples that have appeared for sale over the last few years have been Mint State, possibly from a small hoard of Uncirculated pieces that turned up in 1953, according to Walter Breen.

PCGS Population: 3; 5 finer (MS-64 finest).

Mint State 1843 Half Eagle

703 **1843 MS-61 (NGC).** Satiny smooth and highly lustrous with dashes of olive here and there on the frosty surfaces. Nicely struck. A pleasing example from the early days of Gobrecht's Liberty or Coronet half eagle design type, and an excellent selection for a type collection.

Important 1843-D Half Eagle
Choice Mint State

(2x photo)

704 **1843-D Large D Mintmark. MS-63 (NGC).** A beautiful high-grade specimen with rich orange toning over yellow gold surfaces. The devices are satiny, while the fields exhibit slight traces of prooflike reflectivity. Close examination will reveal die lumps on the obverse, most notably between stars one and two, diagnostic of the die variety. The reverse bears extensive die striae and slightly rough patches in the fields, as made. According to Doug Winter, the 1843-D half eagle is generally one of the nicest struck issues from the Mint (along with the 1843-D quarter eagle), and the present example is certainly no disappointment as the definition is very sharp. Though rather available in lower grades, this issue becomes quite rare in Mint State.

NGC Census: 2; 1 finer (MS-65).

Lustrous 1843-D Half Eagle
Small D Mintmark

(2x photo)

705 **1843-D AU-58 (NGC).** Warm and lustrous yellow gold with intense orange highlights in the recessed areas. Nicely struck with a scattering of tiny marks present, none of sufficient size to immediately draw the viewer's eye. Considerably rarer than the Large D variety of the date, and important to half eagle specialists as such. A date (regardless of mintmark size) that is typically encountered at EF and AU, with just a very small number of Mint State specimens known. A grand opportunity in all regards.

Elusive 1850-C Half Eagle

706 **1850-C Strong Mintmark Variety. AU-50.** Lustrous honey gold with strong orange highlights in the recessed areas. Nicely struck for the date. A few tiny reverse rim marks are noted, the most prominent of these a tiny nick at 4:00, otherwise the surfaces maintain their integrity. An elusive date that is typically encountered in VF or EF, but seldom at AU, as here, or finer.

Uncirculated 1851 Half Eagle

707 **1851 MS-61 (NGC).** Bright and lustrous honey gold with rich yellow iridescence in the protected areas. A pleasing example from the early days of Liberty half eagle coinage.

Exciting Gem 1852 $5

(2x photo)

708 **1852. MS-65 (NGC).** Rich yellow gold with lightly reflective surfaces and extraordinary cartwheel lustre. Sharply struck and very appealing with a bare minimum of marks, though we note a shallow abrasion from star 2 to the top of 2 in the date. A lively and attractive specimen, not rare as a date but nearly unimproveable in this well-preserved state.

NGC Census: 1; 2 finer (MS-66).

From the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection sale, Part II, October 1999, Lot 1032. Earlier from Rarcoa's 1970 ANA sale, August 1970, Lot 1545.

Mint State 1853 Half Eagle

(2x photo)

709 **1853 MS-63 (PCGS).** Generous lustre accents warm yellow gold surfaces. A lovely example that's well struck and has very nice aesthetic appeal. The dies are beginning to fall apart, with a weblike network of cracks advancing through the left obverse stars, while a finer crack has attached the letters of UNITED on the reverse. A tough Philadelphia date to locate in higher Mint State grades.

PCGS Population: 7; 1 finer (MS-64).

710 1856 AU-58. Highly lustrous honey gold with a breath of pale rose iridescence. Repunching shows at some of the letters of LIBERTY.

Uncirculated 1856-C Half Eagle

(2x photo)

711 **1856-C MS-61 (NGC).** Satiny soft yellow gold, with traces of deeper golden toning. Though a few surface marks are present, the coin retains nice lustre and good eye appeal. Slight surface roughness, as made, is visible at the lower left obverse and at a few areas around the eagle. Remarkably well struck for the issue, with nearly full definition on all obverse stars, good hair detail, and respectable sharpness on the eagle feathers—a coin that compares favorably in this regard to the plate specimen in Winter. Though examples appear with some frequency, the majority of them are EF to AU condition. In Mint State, this issue becomes a formidable rarity. Even the extraordinary holdings of Harry W. Bass, Jr. did not include a Mint State example, though the date was represented *several* times. Rated by Doug Winter as the sixth rarest Charlotte half eagle of the 24 different dates, and believed by him to be "one of the most underrated and undervalued issues from this mint." At present, only a single coin is graded finer than the present specimen, taking into account the records of both NGC and PCGS. Certainly a Condition Census candidate and an important offering as such.

NGC Census: 5; 1 finer (MS-62).

Elusive 1856-C Half Eagle

(2x photo)

712 **1856-C AU-58 (NGC).** Satiny honey gold with strong underlying lustre and grand overall eye appeal. An underrated date from the Charlotte Mint. While 28,457 examples of the date were coined, specimens in VF or EF are about all one can expect to find today. Few examples of this date have ever received Mint State grades, making choice AU specimens such as the present coin a great addition to any collection.

NGC Census: 9; 8 finer (MS-62 finest).

Choice AU 1861-D $5
Specimens Coined by USA and CSA

(2x photo)

713 **1861-D AU-55 (PCGS).** A superb example exhibiting light yellow gold surfaces with richly reflective lustre, particularly at the peripheries, and excellent eye appeal. The coin exhibits some light hairlines and marks whose only significance is as an identifier: a short horizontal scratch above star 13, a little nick outside the denticles above star 9, a pinprick contact point in the field far below F of OF – these make no impact on eye appeal but identify this specimen as the Bass coin offered in 2000. Typical regional softness in Liberty's hair and on eagle's talons. This famous issue is a unique one in American numismatic history and perhaps without analogue in world numismatic history. The 1861-D $5 was struck by the Republic in the days following the secession of the state of Georgia but before the taking of the mint by the Confederacy, *and further coined in later weeks by the Confederacy* after they had claimed the mint, dies, and bullion! While it is not possible to distinguish between those struck for the United States and those struck under Confederate control, most estimates point to the federal mintage of 1,597 pieces being slightly larger than the unknown mintage coined by the Confederates – apparently the rebels had more important tasks at hand than keeping careful coinage records. The peculiar circumstances surrounding this issue, and its outright rarity, make it one of the most desirable half eagles of the type. Any specimen in choice AU such as this is important.

From the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection sale, Part III, November 2000, Lot 492. Earlier, from Superior Galleries' sale of December 1972, Lot 1955. The certified grade has not changed since the Bass III offering.

Scarce 1873-S Half Eagle

714 **1873-S AU-53 (NGC).** Traces of pleasing lustre remain on both sides, nicely accented by the warmly toned honey gold surfaces. Typical strike for the issue, with some softness, though most elements of the design are well defined. From a mintage of 31,000 pieces, though today it stands as an undisputable rarity in higher grades with just a single example graded Mint State by NGC and none at that level by PCGS. The finest piece that Harry Bass was able to acquire also graded AU-53, making this a very noteworthy offering.

NGC Census: 9; 4 finer (MS-61 finest).

Very Rare Mint State 1876 $5
Choice MS-64 (PCGS)

(2x photo)

715 **1876 MS-64 (PCGS).** Rich deep yellow gold with splendid satiny lustre on nicely reflective fields, splashes of deep rose in areas of the reverse periphery. The central devices appear somewhat frosted, the fields are nearly pristine with only microscopic contact points on the obverse and only minor nicks under the sinister wing of the eagle to mention on the reverse. Exceptionally well-preserved, with beautiful visual appeal – a decidedly choice specimen of this very rare half eagle issue of only 1,432 pieces. A natural planchet void is noted under ER of AMERICA, distinguishing this fine example. Among With Motto half eagles, only the extremely rare 1875 and very rare 1877 have lower mintages. Wedged between these classics, the 1876 should be recognized as an extremely rare coin in this quality.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-65).

716 **A half dozen Liberty half eagles:** ☆ 1878-S Net AU-50; AU-58, lightly cleaned ☆ 1880-S Net AU-50; AU-58, lightly cleaned ☆ 1881-S AU-58 ☆ 1886-S AU-58 ☆ 1892 AU-55 ☆ 1907 AU-58. A nice group overall. (Total: 6 pieces)

Rare 1879-CC Half Eagle

(2x photo)

717 **1879-CC AU-58 (NGC).** Intense lustre graces deep orange-gold surfaces. Nicely struck and devoid of all but some trivial marks. A rare date so fine. Indeed, the present coin is probably in the Condition Census for the date (for comparison the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection included two nice AU-55 examples of the date, a remarkable feat in and of itself). From a mintage of 17,281 pieces, with probably fewer than two dozen examples known at AU or finer. The present coin is exceptional for both its eye appeal and its overall quality, and we would be remiss here if we did not mention its rarity as well.

NGC Census: 12; 3 finer (MS-61 finest).

718 **1880 MS-64 (PCGS).** Blazing honey gold with intense lustre and strong eye appeal for the assigned grade. Definitely choice.

The bottom of the 0 in the date has broken, and the bottom of that numeral is now filled with a sizable and highly noticeable cud. This is the first time we have noticed this phenomenon for the date.

719 **Four half eagles:** ☆ 1880 AU-58 ☆ 1900 MS-62. This one will probably show up in a MS-63 holder before too long ☆ 1910-D AU-50 ☆ 1915 EF-45. A nice, lustrous group. (Total: 4 pieces)

720 **Selection of AU-55 half eagles:** ☆ 1880 ☆ 1880-S ☆ 1881 ☆ 1881-S ☆ 1882 ☆ 1883 ☆ 1885-S ☆ 1886-S ☆ 1887-S ☆ 1892 ☆ 1893. A lustrous group. (Total: 11 pieces)

721 **Uncirculated Liberty half eagle foursome:** ☆ 1881 MS-60 ☆ 1885 MS-62 ☆ 1906 MS-61. Repunching seen in the lower loop of the 6 ☆ 1907-D MS-62. A nice group. (Total: 4 pieces)

Lustrous Half Eagle Quintette

722 **Five lustrous half eagles,** Liberty and Indian, all certified by PCGS: ☆ 1886-S MS-63 ☆ 1899 MS-63 ☆ 1900 MS-62 ☆ 1901-S MS-63 ☆ 1915 AU-58. All are attractive for the grade. (Total: 5 pieces)

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Choice Mint State 1891 Half Eagle
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

723 **1891 MS-64 (PCGS).** A frosty honey gold specimen with strong lustre and rich rose iridescence, sharply struck from lightly clashed dies. As nice as they come for the date, at least as far as PCGS is concerned; that organization has not graded an example of the date at a finer level. Choice for the grade.

PCGS Population: 21; none finer.

724 **Pair of branch mint half eagles,** including the final New Orleans Liberty issue ☆ 1891-CC MS-60, light hairlines present ☆ 1894-O AU-55. The third and final date of Liberty half eagle struck in New Orleans after that edifice reopened its doors for coining in 1879. Two lustrous coins. (Total: 2 pieces)

Choice Cameo Proof 1893 $5

(2x photo)

725 **1893 Proof-64 DCAM (PCGS).** Sharp devices with heavy cameo frost and satiny lustre. The fields are deeply mirrored and highly reflective, though some light film is noted on the surfaces which has somewhat softened the effect. Just 77 pieces were struck in Proof format, though it is believed that fewer than two dozen exist today.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (Proof-66 DCAM).

Choice Cameo Proof 1894 $5
From the Pittman Collection

(2x photo)

726 **1894 Proof-64 CAM (NGC).** Rich orange gold surfaces with good reflectivity in the fields and sharp satiny devices. A few light surface marks and minor hairlines account for the grade. One of perhaps two dozen thought to have survived from the original mintage of 75 examples.

NGC Census: 7; 5 finer (Proof-67 finest).

From David Akers' sale of the John Pittman Collection, October 1997, Lot 1061. Purchased by Pittman from Pine Tree's GENA Sale, September 1973, Lot 512.

727 **Another group of AU-55 half eagles:** ☆ 1894 ☆ 1895 ☆ 1897 ☆ 1898-S ☆ 1900 ☆ 1901 ☆ 1901-S ☆ 1903-S ☆ 1904 (2) ☆ 1907. All are lustrous. (Total: 11 pieces)

Notable Gem Proof 1895 Half Eagle

Mintage: 81 Pieces

(2x photo)

728 **1895 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Deep honey gold with bright lemon iridescence on the high points. Frosty motifs and mirror fields combine in an enchanting cameo manner, though such is not noted on the holder. A delightful gem Proof half eagle, one of just 81 examples of the date produced; probably less than half that number can be accounted for today. A highlight of the Luther A. Breck Collection, the present coin is finer than the Harry W. Bass, Jr. specimen offered in November 2000 (Part IV, Lot 564), and highly significant as such. Indeed, just two examples of the date have been graded finer by PCGS. We have every reason to believe that our bidders are prepared to bid this gem to great heights before the auction gavel knells its final tap.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer within the grade designation (Proof-66 finest).
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Mint State 1898-S Half Eagle

729 **1898-S MS-64 (NGC).** Brilliant yellow gold surfaces with superb mint lustre and excellent aesthetic quality comfortably exceeding that of many other examples in this grade. A beautiful piece worthy of careful consideration.

730 **1901-S MS-64 (NGC).** A satiny honey gold gem with strong lustre and a whisper of pale rose iridescence. Nicely struck.

Gem Uncirculated 1902-S $5

731 **1902-S MS-65 (PCGS).** A satiny, glittering gem with lustre and surfaces that leave no doubt as to the grade of the coin. A whisper of pale rose adds considerably to the appeal of this beautiful branch mint Liberty half eagle.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Mint State 1908 Indian $5

(2x photo)

732 **1908 Indian. MS-65 (PCGS).** Satiny deep honey gold with lively golden yellow highlights. A glittering prize that displays designer Bela Lyon Pratt's unique incused Native American and bald eagle designs to their fullest advantage. Gem Mint State Indian gold half eagles (and quarter eagles as well) are always in great demand regardless of date, and special attention is always called to such coins. The present specimen will be no exception to the supply-demand equation, and will draw its fair share of bidding attention when serious bidders gather, all with the intention of taking this beauty home.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

733 **Three lustrous Indian half eagles:** ☆ 1908 AU-58 ☆ 1909-D MS-60 ☆ 1914 AU-58. (Total: 3 pieces)

734 1914-D MS-62 (NGC). Lustrous gold surfaces.

EAGLES

The eagle or $10 denomination was the largest gold coin authorized by the Mint Act of 1792. It served this leadership role well until 1849 when an influx of gold from California demanded an even larger coin for the demands of commerce. In these years after the creation of the double eagle, whose emergence began in earnest in 1850, the eagle series creates a number of interesting opportunities for the collector: branch mint rarities, low-mintage pieces from the Philadelphia Mint, an extensive run of Proof emissions, and a new design that would be the final one to grace the denomination. The early years rarely survive in top grade, but on these pages you'll fine a superbly pedigreed 1797 and a few Mint State examples that prove exceptions to that rule. Among pieces from the post-1850 era in the Classics Sale, rarities abound: the famous 1858 eagle, a prized rarity in *any* grade; the 1872 and 1876 issues of the Philadelphia Mint, rare issues from San Francisco and Carson City, exceptional Proofs of 1890 and 1903, and a gem Wire Rim 1907 Indian $10 that is an object of great beauty. Even if you don't collect $10 pieces (or gold, or coins at all!), we hope you'll find the descriptions and images that follow interesting – and perhaps even tempting!

(2x photo)

Choice AU 1797 Heraldic Eagle $10

Taraszka-11

From the 1941 Dunham Collection

735 **1797 Breen 2-D, Taraszka-11. Rarity-5. AU-55 (PCGS).** Attractive even yellow gold with traces of lustre in protected areas of the obverse and full cartwheel lustre on the reverse, which appears very close indeed to Mint State and shows significant reflectivity. Few notable marks – we note a curved nick at star 3 and a smaller one near star 5 for identification – and a good even strike. Some inherent roughness on the central obverse device, a lovely example for the grade overall. This reverse was used on both 1798/7 die marriages, both struck earlier than this apparently backdated issue. A lovely example with an excellent and interesting pedigree (see more below).

Perhaps the most interesting characteristic of this coin, though its eye appeal and nicely preserved state are prime attractions, is the very tiny D counterstamped below F of OF in the final cloud. It is impossible to see without magnification, but it is oriented vertically. This mark, also present on the Dexter 1804 dollar in the cloud below O of OF, was long thought to refer to James V. Dexter. In more recent years, evidence strongly suggests it relates to famous collector William Forrester Dunham (who also owned the Dexter 1804 dollar), whose collection was sold by B. Max Mehl in 1941. While this piece was sold without provenance in the Dallas Bank sale, the countermark exposes a far longer history. Lot 2199 of the Dunham Sale, in all likelihood the present coin, was described by Mehl as "1797. So-called small stars on obverse. Perfect die. About Uncirculated with brilliant mint luster. The reverse is semi-proof." Mehl's notation of perfect die, despite the fact that this piece shows a minor die crack through the final digit of the date, was in contrast to the 1797 eagle in Lot 2198 that was described as having a "faint die crack between S and O on reverse," an example of Taraszka 8. Neither coin, in typical Mehl form, was plated.

From Sotheby's/Stack's sale of the "Dallas Bank" Collection, October 2001, Lot 379. Earlier, from B. Max Mehl's sale of the William Forrester Dunham Collection, June 1941, Lot 2199 for $39.25.

Superb Lustrous AU 1799 $10

Tarazska-17, Rarity-7

(2x photo)

736 **1799 Breen 3-C, T-17. Rarity-7. AU-58 (NGC).** Superb satiny and cartwheel lustre on bright medium yellow gold surfaces. A lovely piece for the grade, full of eye appeal, boldly struck, and essentially Mint State but for the lightest rub. A short scratch at star 2 serves as an identifier, some light hairlines in fields, no serious digs or signs of weakness. An extremely rare variety, not among the Bass sales though a specimen remains in the Harry Bass Foundation collection at the ANA Museum. Like that coin, on this piece star 3 is a bit flat and the same die cracks (rim to star 8 to cap, tops of ERTY to stars 9 to 11) are present. With that coin off the market, specialists in the series would be well advised to exert significant effort to add this example to their collection.

Frosty Mint State 1799 $10

(2x photo)

737 **1799 Breen 4-E, T-19. Rarity-3. MS-61 (PCGS).** Satiny lustre on frosty greenish gold surfaces. Sharply struck with wing tips and central stars brought up, excellent eye appeal, light contact marks with only a horizontal abrasion at star 3 worth noting. Single lintmark present behind base of cap in upper left field. Late die state with rim cuds at stars 7 and 8 and all cracks mentioned by Taraszka. A very nice coin for the grade, an ideal representative of the type.

Choice Mint State 1799 $10

(2x photo)

738 **1799 Breen 5-G, T-22. Rarity-3. MS-63 (NGC).** Attractive rich yellow gold with soft obverse lustre and bright satiny lustre on the reverse. Pristine fields reveal no significant marks under magnification, deeper yellow toning surrounds devices. An extremely sharp coin, free of significant defects. The planchet does show some very shallow inherent roughness under a glass. Each detail in the stars, central devices, and peripheries is clear. A superb specimen of the type for a dedicated collector.

High-Grade 1801 Eagle

(2x photo)

739 **1801 Breen 2-B, T-25. Rarity-3. MS-61 (NGC).** Pale yellow gold with abundant lustre, especially on the reverse. The surfaces are free of digs though some hairlines are noted. Crisply struck with good eye appeal. Single short scratch at star 7, very subtle adjustment marks manifest diagonally on the central obverse device, especially in a natural depression on Liberty's cheek where grease or something similar prevented them from being properly obliterated at striking. A very sharp example for the type collector.

740 **Three Liberty eagles:** ☆ 1848 EF-45 ☆ 1880-S AU-55 ☆ 1901 AU-58. (Total: 3 pieces)

741 **1852-O Net EF-40; AU details, cleaned (ANACS).** Bright yellow gold. A rare date, one of just 18,000 examples of the date pro-

duced, and a date that is seldom seen above VF; indeed, it may not exist in Mint State. Holder marked "Harry W. Bass" (probably Lot 649, Part IV, November 2000). Variety with hollow ring atop second vertical shield stripe on reverse (Breen-6902).

Lustrous 1856-S $10

742 **1856-S AU-55 (NGC).** Medium S mintmark. Rich honey gold with bright orange-gold lustre in the recessed areas. From a mintage of 68,000 pieces, most of which became well circulated in the channels of commerce in San Francisco. Scarce in AU or finer.

Of the thousands of coins aboard the *S.S. Central America*, only 28 examples of the 1856-S eagle were recovered – the 1856-S $20s aboard were about 50 times that in number! The best of those eagles was graded MS-63 by PCGS, and it is believed to be the finest known example. Other pieces were much more similar to this in grade.

Classic 1858 $10 Rarity

(2x photo)

743 **1858 AU-58 (NGC).** Lustrous yellow gold surfaces with numerous bag marks and other signs of handling, though aside from a couple of small digs hidden in the reverse legend, none of the marks are particularly distracting. The obverse stars exhibit the usual softness, but overall the coin is a nicely struck example.

Just 2,521 pieces were struck, one of the lowest mintages of all No Motto Liberty eagles, and it is estimated that perhaps only 2% to 4% of that original figure exist today. As no 1858 Eagle from any mint can be considered particularly common, the date has long been recognized by collectors as a tough one. In Mint State, the 1858 eagle is rightfully regarded as a prized rarity, and few of the known examples approach that state of preservation. Even such great collections as that of Louis Eliasberg, Sr., and the Norweb family did not include specimens worthy of the Mint State designation, and the more recent offering of the Harry W. Bass Collection included only a single specimen, graded AU-53 by PCGS. Thus, the importance of the 1858 eagle offered here cannot be overstated. A prize for the advanced collector of United States gold.

NGC Census: 2; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

The 1858 eagle is, of course, an "old-time" rarity, an issue well recognized as being a key date in the series for a century. In his 1941 Dunham Catalogue, B. Max Mehl knew of "no more than six specimens" and cited the absence of this issue in such important cabinets as Parmalee, Cleneay, Stickney, and Ten Eyck as a testament to its abiding rarity. Indeed, in more recent times, while more than six specimens are known, the rarity of the 1858 eagle is steadfast and not prone to change. Akers estimated a total population of 30; Breen estimated that only half that many exist. The finest known by general consensus turned up around 1972, reportedly in the pouch it had been housed in since 1858! That piece, the only Mint State example certified by PCGS, is graded MS-64 today – almost 10 points finer than the second best seen by them! It seems very probable that this coin is responsible for the single MS-64 grade assigned by NGC as well.

Rare 1864 Eagle

744 **1864 EF-45 (NGC).** Soft grayish gold surfaces with deeper orange highlights. Minor marks on both sides, as expected for the grade. Some light surface dirt blends with pleasing traces of mint lustre, mostly present in the protected areas. Just 3,530 pieces were struck.

Extremely Rare 1872 $10
Only 1,650 Produced

(2x photo)

745 **1872 AU-50 (NGC).** A very attractive example with warm yellow gold surfaces with traces of deeper orange toning toward the rims. Decent lustre remains for the grade, especially on the reverse, while traces of prooflike field texture are visible in the protected recesses. One of only 1,620 specimens produced in Philadelphia that year, ranking it comfortably among the 10 smallest productions in the Liberty Eagle series. Any offering of this date is an important one – there are perhaps only three Mint State examples known and specimens graded in the AU category are about the best a collector can reasonably expect to acquire.

Among the Mint State specimens of this issue known to us, the Floyd Starr coin strikes us as the most interesting. Starr was a Philadelphia insurance executive, a gentleman of significant means who kept a low personal profile, yet allowed Walter Breen to study his exceptional collection of early Proof coins. His first numismatic activity seems to be bidding in the 1921 John Story Jenks sale by Henry Chapman; Starr died 50 years later in 1971. While Starr was an active bidder at major sales throughout the 1930s and 1940s (and even consigned a significant group of large cents to the 1949 ANA sale), his purchases in the 1920s were relatively modest. Starr's specimen of the 1872 eagle was a nice BU coin, "purchased from Henry Chapman in the 1920s" according to the Stack's sale of coins remaining in his estate in 1992. That a neophyte collector would purchase one of the very finest known specimens of an issue that was then not even on the radar screen and today remains underappreciated was either incredible luck or an act of great prescience – it was fortuitous either way! As he purchased the Mint State piece from Chapman, a Philadelphian, 40 years after its mintage, it seems unlikely that the coin ever got too far from the Philadelphia Mint until Starr's collection was finally broken up in 1992.

Popular 1872-CC Eagle

(2x photo)

746 **1872-CC EF-45 (NGC).** Soft yellow gold surfaces with some lustre remaining on both sides. Light marks are noted, as expected for the grade level, but none are particularly distracting. Considered by Doug Winter to be the rarest issue of all Carson City eagles, and the vast majority of survivors from the original mintage of 4,600 pieces are thought to rank in the VF range. Specimens graded higher are quite rare. Winter knew of fewer than 12 examples in the EF category, less than six graded AU, and not a single specimen reaching Mint State. Another noteworthy $10 rarity.

Scarce 1872-S Eagle

747 **1872-S AU-53 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous yellow gold surfaces with significant prooflike reflectivity noted in the protected areas. Numerous bagmarks, but without any particularly significant individual abrasions. Sharply struck with bold detail. A quite attractive example of this scarce Liberty Eagle. Though 17,300 pieces were struck, *multiples* of the mintage for the 1858 offered earlier, the frequency of appearances for the 1872-S is no greater than that of the 1858. As for the few available specimens, Mint State examples are the minority, with just a few graded. As such, a nice AU will need to fit the bill, so to speak, for the vast majority of collectors interested in acquiring the date. The present AU-53 is about as nice as one could ask for at that grade level and presents a fine opportunity.

PCGS Population: 6; 6 finer (AU-58 finest).

Scarce 1874-S Eagle

748 **1874-S EF-45 (PCGS).** Deep greenish gold surfaces with traces of lustre remaining in the recesses. An all-around scarce issue that becomes prohibitively rare in higher grades. In fact, no Mint State examples are graded by PCGS or NGC.

Extremely Rare 1876 $10

(2x photo)

749 **1876 AU-58 (NGC).** A superb example of this very rare issue. Rich yellow gold surfaces with highlights of deeper orange toning, especially noteworthy on the high points and at the rims. The coin retains much of the original lustre, and the semi-prooflike fields remain somewhat reflective in places. Numerous scattered marks as usual for eagles of the era, but the coin shows only the slightest hint of wear and stands as a very attractive example.

Just 687 circulation strikes were produced, the second lowest figure for the Liberty eagle series, exceeded only by the issue of 1875 for which just 100 were struck—a classic rarity among U.S. gold coins. Though any example of the 1876 issue would be a highlight of a run of Liberty eagles, the present specimen ranks high among the few survivors and is tied for the distinction of finest certified by either NGC or PCGS.

NGC Census: 3; none finer.

750 **The Liberty sisters meet the Indian chiefs:** ☆ 1880 Net EF-40; AU-50, mount removed ☆ 1897 AU-58. Base of 1 repunched ☆ 1910-D AU-55 ☆ 1915 AU-58. (Total: 4 pieces)

751 **Five Mint State Liberty eagles:** ☆ 1881 MS-60 ☆ 1882 MS-61 ☆ 1886-S MS-60 ☆ 1889-S MS-61 ☆ 1900 MS-60. A lustrous and attractive group. (Total: 5 pieces)

Lustrous Liberty Eagles

752 **Selection of AU-55 eagles:** ☆ 1882 ☆ 1886-S ☆ 1888-S ☆ 1893 ☆ 1894 ☆ 1894-O ☆ 1898 ☆ 1900 ☆ 1903-S. All are lustrous. (Total: 9 pieces)

High-Grade 1882-CC $10
Errant Date in Denticles

(2x photo)

753 **1882-CC AU-58 (NGC).** Very nicely struck, with only the most trivial softness on the higher points. The surfaces are rich yellow gold with deeper orange-gold highlights across fields showing some prooflike quality. A lovely high-grade specimen from the 6,764 pieces struck.

Though 22 pieces are currently reported by NGC as graded AU-58, Doug Winter notes that the figure (14 pieces as of his most recent writing on the subject) is significantly inflated due to resubmissions in an attempt to cross coins to the mint state level. It is easy to understand that this would occur, as mint state coins of this date are essentially unheard of except for a single coin grading finer than this one at NGC (MS-62). No examples have been graded Mint State at PCGS. The Mint State coin mentioned here is believed to be unique, offered as MS-61 (NGC) when catalogued by Q. David Bowers in Bowers and Merena's July 2002 *Rarities Sale*, featuring the spectacular Carson City gold collection of Henry S. Lang.

Back to the present coin, the rarity of high-grade examples is undeniable, and this specimen certainly is a highly attractive Condition Census example worthy of a fine collection.

NGC Census: 22; 1 finer (MS-62).

Same die variety as that described in Bass IV: 742, with errant date digits visible in the denticles. The variety was first discovered by John Kraljevich, Jr. in September 2000 when cataloging the referenced Bass coin for Bowers and Merena. Doug Winter notes that the reverse used to strike this coin appears to match that used on the other known die variety, and thus speculates that the variety offered here might be an earlier die state from the same die pair.

More Liberty Eagles

754 **Another group of AU-55 Liberty eagles:** ☆ 1885 ☆ 1887 ☆ 1892 ☆ 1893 ☆ 1894 ☆ 1898 ☆ 1899-S ☆ 1902 ☆ 1905. All are lustrous. (Total: 9 pieces)

Delightful Choice Proof 1890 Eagle

None Certified Finer by PCGS Within Designation

(2x photo)

755 **1890 Proof-64 CAM (PCGS).** A lovely example for the grade. Frosty honey gold motifs and mirrored fields form a pleasing cameo contrast. A touch of haze in the reflective fields suggests that the present piece has not been dipped or otherwise tampered with in recent memory. As such, the present coin would be a welcomed addition to any advanced eagle collection. From a Proof mintage for the date of 63 pieces, of which it is thought that perhaps 30 or so were actually sold at the Mint, the balance being melted at a later date. Perhaps just two dozen or so examples are currently known to today's collectors, with many of those of inferior quality or perhaps even showing injuries of various sorts. All this aside, the present coin speaks for itself where quality is concerned.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer within the assigned grade designation.

756 **Mint State Liberty eagle trio:** ☆ 1893 MS-62 PL. Faint cameo contrast is present ☆ 1899 MS-62 ☆ 1906-D MS-62. First year of Denver Mint coinage operations. Three lustrous eagles. (Total: 3 pieces)

757 **1894-O MS-60.** A highly lustrous specimen with a lot more eye appeal than is generally associated with the assigned grade.

Uncirculated 1895-O $10

758 **1895-O MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange gold surfaces display rose and pale blue iridescence.

Underrated 1896-S $10 Rarity

759 **1896-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Electrifying lustre on bright honey gold surfaces. Splashes of iridescent rose enhance the somewhat prooflike fields and lightly frosted motifs. An attractive coin for the grade, with just a scattering of tiny marks which are easily overlooked when the "big picture" is taken into account. Walter Breen called the date "prohibitively rare AU," which causes us to ponder the actual rarity of this date in Mint State as presented here! We can safely say that the present coin is considerably finer than any of the specimens gathered by Harry W. Bass, Jr. in his long and illustrious collecting career. PCGS has certified fewer than a half dozen examples of the date in a finer grade than that presented here, another "selling point" for this rare and desirable eagle.

PCGS Population: 8; 4 finer (MS-65 finest).

760 **1898 MS-64 (NGC).** Attractive honey gold with nice lustre and a sharp strike. Fine die cracks are beginning to appear on both sides.

761 **1899 MS-64 (PCGS).** A high degree of lustre and equally strong visual appeal combine with rich rose and honey gold highlights for a positive end result.

A fine obverse die crack wends its way among the date numerals and stars, touching the point of the bust in one instance, and jutting to the dentils in several places. Not to be outdone, the reverse also sports several tiny cracks, some of which are quite bold (in a relative way).

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Choice Uncirculated Liberty Eagle Trio

762 **Threesome of PCGS-certified Liberty eagles,** all MS-63: ☆ 1901 (2) ☆ 1901-S. Apparent repunching at the 9 in the date. A lustrous and attractive trio. (Total: 3 pieces)

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Lovely Gem Uncirculated 1901-S $10

763 **1901-S MS-65 (PCGS).** Incredibly lively lustre immediately engages the viewer's eye, quickly followed by a sensual assault of pale olive and rose iridescence, all this on satiny smooth surfaces. Gem quality personified!

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

764 **1901-S MS-63.** A highly lustrous eagle that is richly deserving of the assigned grade.

Gem Proof 1903 Eagle
Richly Toned
None Graded Finer by PCGS

(2x photo)

765 **1903 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Deep orange gold surfaces display an array of deeper highlights in the protected areas. Struck from brilliant Proof dies (the second year of such die use at the Mint for Proofs), and without cameo contrast as such. An impressive gem specimen, one of 96 Proofs of the date produced, with perhaps just three dozen or so specimens from that mintage that can be traced today. By way of comparison, we point out the present coin is finer than Bass: 1658 (Part II, October 1999; that being a lovely Proof-64 coin). No finer Proof example of this date has been certified by PCGS, a fact that should be carefully weighed when you plan your bidding strategy.

PCGS Population: 7; none finer within the grade designation.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Important 1907 Indian $10 Rarity
Wire Rim, With Periods

(2x photo)

766 1907 Indian. Wire Rim, Periods. Judd-1774, Pollock-1995. MS-65 (PCGS). Satiny, matte-like yellow gold surfaces display intensely bright lustre and traces of warm golden toning in the protected areas. Countless raised die lines can be seen in the fields. High wire rims surround the peripheries, triangular "periods" before, between, and after UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, E PLURIBUS UNUM, and TEN DOLLARS (these "periods" were removed from the design when it was remodeled by Charles Barber for general circulation purposes later in 1907, thus producing the much more common No Periods type). Mintage estimated at around 500 pieces, of which some are believed to be Proofs (see below). Designed by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, and among the most desirable of all 20th-century gold rarities (while perhaps not at the same *popularity* level as the MCMVII High Relief $20 gold, also designed by Saint-Gaudens, the Indian design type offered herein is certainly *many times rarer* than its more famous High Relief cousin). Breen called the design type offered here "The only available gold $10s showing the Saint-Gaudens conceptions in anywhere near their pristine splendor," inferring that the later remodeling by Barber greatly diminished Saint-Gaudens' concept, both in strength and character. Choice for the grade, and a pleasure to behold. An undisputable rarity and an important highlight of the Luther A. Breck Collection, as it will no doubt be in the next collection it joins.

Erroneously called "Wire Edge" on the PCGS holder (the "wire edge" misnomer seems to perpetuate itself no matter how many times well-meaning numismatists try to correct the parlance; the *edge* of the coin displays 46 stars, one for each star on Old Glory at the time of issue).

How many were struck, and are there any Proofs available? In his *Encyclopedia,* Walter Breen's No. 7094 notes the following: "1907 'Type I,' starred edge. [Net 448- + 50- P] Judd-1774. Triangular dots; knife-rim. Mintage originally [500], including Proofs, less two officially melted." He also wrote: "Almost all of the 50 matte or satin finish Proofs of this type have vanished, or remain unrecognized. They should be needle sharp in central details on both sides, which the 400-odd regularly seen specimens are not. The latter have a peculiar surface entirely unlike that of ordinary production coins of other dates, with millions of irregular random striations in fields."

Meanwhile, in *A Handbook of 20th-Century United States Gold Coins, 1907-1933,* author David Akers had the following to say regarding the mintage of the date: "The 500 mintage figure comes from a 1908 letter from dealer Henry Chapman to John Garrett, and this number is probably correct since Chapman had very close Mint connections." Regarding the finish, Akers further noted: "It is entirely possible that all 500 are really Proofs rather than business strikes but there is no way to know for sure. One thing is certain, however; *all* of the known examples of this issue are of the same method of manufacture and so any distinction between "Proof" and "business strike" 1907 Wire Edge [*sic*] eagles is incorrect."

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Mint State Indian Eagle Duo

767 Pair of PCGS-certified Indian eagles: ☆ 1907 No Periods. MS-62. Bright yellow gold. Called "No Motto" on the holder; all 1907 Indian eagles are without motto ☆ 1912 MS-63. Lustrous rose-gold. A nice pair. (Total: 2 pieces)

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Five Choice AU Indian Eagles

768 Five choice AU Indian eagles, all AU-58 unless noted: ☆ 1907 No Periods. AU-55 ☆ 1909-D ☆ 1911 ☆ 1913 ☆ 1915. A lustrous group of Indians. (Total: 5 pieces)

Choice Uncirculated 1908 No Motto Eagle

769 1908 No Motto. MS-64 (PCGS). Rich golden surfaces are alive with intense lustre and a good dose of plain, old-fashioned charm. From a circulation strike mintage for the date of 33,500 pieces, the second lowest regular-issue production figure in the series (the 1908 Indian eagles with IN GOD WE TRUST added to the design have a mintage figure more than 10 times greater than the No Motto type offered here!). A lovely representative of the design type and grade.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

770 **Lustrous quartette of Indian eagles,** all AU-58 unless noted: ☆ 1908 Motto ☆ 1910 Net AU-55, lightly cleaned ☆ 1910-D ☆ 1914. (Total: 4 pieces)

Half Dozen Indian Eagles

771 **Six AU-55 Indian eagles:** ☆ 1908 Motto ☆ 1910-D ☆ 1912 ☆ 1914 ☆ 1915 ☆ 1926. All are lustrous. (Total: 6 pieces)

772 **1909-D MS-62 (NGC).** Satiny rose-gold with orange highlights and strong lustre.

Another Indian Eagle Group

773 **Six more AU-55 Indian eagles:** ☆ 1910 ☆ 1911 ☆ 1913 ☆ 1914-D ☆ 1915 ☆ 1932. A lustrous group. (Total: 6 pieces)

Choice Mint State 1911 $10

774 **1911 MS-64 (NGC).** A choice example with satiny lustre and rich gold toning, highlighted by traces of deeper orange.

Elusive 1911-D Indian $10

775 **1911-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Frosty honey gold with strong lustre and a touch of rose iridescence. No obvious wear or breaks in the lustre can be detected on the high points; a few light hairlines in the field before the Indian's portrait may account for the assigned grade. From a mintage of 30,000 pieces, the smallest regular-issue mintage figure in the series. In *A Handbook of 20th-Century United States Gold Coins 1907-1933,* author David Akers noted "The 1911-D cannot be easily located in any Mint State grade, not even MS-60, and above the most basic Mint State level, the population dwindles to almost nothing." Since the 1988 publication of the Akers reference, NGC and PCGS have certified dozens of examples of the date in Mint State, but the high concentrations of certified specimens at certain grade levels may indicate multiple re-submissions of the same coin in the ever-present search for "upgrades" — the rarity of the date is still basically intact. The present coin represents a nice opportunity to fill that empty space in your Indian eagle collection with one solid bid.

776 **1911-D AU-55 (NGC).** A high degree of gold lustre on satiny honey gold surfaces. Scarce in AU or finer. One of 30,100 examples of the date struck, the lowest regular-issue figure in the Indian eagle series. A golden opportunity to obtain a high-grade example of this scarce issue.

777 **Three Uncirculated Indian eagles:** ☆ 1912 MS-61 ☆ 1926 MS-63 ☆ 1932 MS-62. All are bright and lustrous. (Total: 3 pieces)

Choice Mint State 1913 $10

778 **1913 MS-64 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold over highly lustrous surfaces. A couple of nicks are noted on the cheek, but neither is distracting upon first glance.

A Second Choice Example

779 **1913 MS-64 (NGC).** A brilliant, well struck, highly lustrous, and very attractive example.

780 **1913-S AU-55 (NGC).** Satiny, deep honey gold with distinctive rose highlights. A popular branch mint issue.

Gem Mint State 1932 Eagle

781 **1932 MS-65 (PCGS).** Impressively bright lustre vies for the viewer's attention with intense splashes of pale rose and orange-gold on the satiny surfaces of this enticing gem Indian eagle. A glistening gem from the final collectable year of the series (the terminal date issue, 1933, is a great rarity that only occasionally comes up for sale at public auction or private treaty), and is every bit the gem the holder declares.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

DOUBLE EAGLES

The largest coin struck by the U.S. Mint for the needs of commerce, the double eagle is popular for many of the same reasons as the silver dollar: an abundance of scarce branch mint issues adds a challenge to collecting the series, high-grade examples of common dates are easy to acquire and beautiful to behold, while the size and "heft" of the coin make us yearn for the days where wealth had such a tactile sensation. Our offering of double eagles includes many grand *opportunities* for the savvy specialist – how many chances does one get to purchase the finest (no ifs ands, or buts) specimen of the 1863-S issue? Among the Liberty issues, a beautiful gem 1865-S piece from the famous wreck of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* would add to any collection, and a Cameo Proof-66 (NGC) example of the 1901 issue is an extraordinarily beautiful coin to behold and closely examine, likewise for the gem Proof 1904 $20 which follows it. The ever-popular design by Augustus Saint-Gaudens (chosen for "re-use" when the U.S. Mint began producing and marketing American Eagle gold coins in 1986), is well-represented by lovely high-grade examples for type collectors and *several* specimens of "America's Most Beautiful Coin" – the MCMVII High Relief. Indeed, we offer an example in Proof-67 (NGC), a spectacular artifact from the U.S. Mint's finest hour. A fine selection awaits.

782 **1851 AU-50.** Satiny honey gold with strong underlying lustre.
Broken crossbar on A in STATES.

783 **1852 AU-58 (NGC).** Lustrous rose-gold. A pleasing early double eagle for your type collection.

784 **Liberty double eagle trio:** ☆ 1857-S EF-40, light, scattered scratches ☆ 1874-S AU-55 ☆ 1894 AU-55. (Total: 3 pieces)

The Finest Known 1863-S $20
Akers Plate Coin

(2x photo)

785 **1863-S MS-64 (PCGS).** Impressive satiny lustre on rich yellow gold surfaces with a hint of pale green at the peripheries. Gem quality eye appeal, a beautiful specimen made all the more significant by the rarity of this issue in high grade. A light abrasion is noted on Liberty's nose, nick at the back of Liberty's head near star 10, other tiny contact points are insignificant. A frosty delight that, amazingly, was not salvaged from the wreck of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan*. A number of 1863-S $20 pieces were recovered from the wreck, most of which were badly bagmarked Mint State pieces with only two pieces graded MS-63 and a few more meriting MS-61 grades. None compared (or really came close) to this example. This piece served as the Akers plate coin in his work on double eagles when it was a part of the famous "Dallas Bank" Collection formed by Jeff Browning. For a new generation of double eagle specialists, an unfulfilled opportunity to buy this coin means settling for second best.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Sotheby's/Stack's sale of the "Dallas Bank" Collection, October 2001, Lot 38.

Gem Mint State 1865-S $20

From the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* Treasure

(2x photo)

786 **1865-S *S.S. Brother Jonathan*. MS-65 (PCGS).** A satiny gem with honey gold surfaces that project strong cartwheel lustre in a radiant eye-catching display. One of just 14 gem MS-65 1865-S double eagles from the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* treasure that were certified by PCGS; they certified two others from that treasure at MS-66, but none finer. The appearance here of this historic coin is a fortunate occurrence for collectors, for many of the 14 PCGS-certified MS-65 *S.S. Brother Jonathan* double eagles have been put away in serious collections (for example, the present Breck Collection specimen), with mainly MS-64 and lesser quality pieces making up the aftermarket. When a gem treasure coin such as this comes on the market, you can be certain specialists are quick to take note.

PCGS Population: 19; 2 finer within the grade designation (MS-66 finest).

The story of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* is now a familiar tale in coin collecting circles, thanks largely to the incredible research and history presented by Q. David Bowers in his landmark book *The Treasure Ship S.S. Brother Jonathan, Her Life and Loss, 1850-1865* (suggested reading for anyone with a penchant for numismatics, history, and adventure). The offering of the present coin suggests an abbreviated review of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* treasure is in order, and we oblige with the following:

The *S.S. Brother Jonathan,* a "side-wheeler" steam ship, was launched in Williamsburg (Brooklyn) New York in late November 1850. She took her name from a nickname for the United States on the world stage ("Brother Jonathan" was as familiar in its day as "Uncle Sam"). The ship passed to several owners over the years, including Cornelius Vanderbilt, whose name at the time was practically synonymous with ingenuity, wealth, and prosperity. In October 1854, the ship assisted in the rescue and return to San Francisco of passengers from an ill-fated vessel named *S.S. Yankee Blade*. The "Bro Jo," (as many of us who had the pleasure of describing these coins when they first hit the auction arena in the spring of 1999 have come to call her) even underwent a name change, at one time called the *Commodore* before changing hands once again and being renamed the *Brother Jonathan*. On July 28, 1865, the *S.S. Brother Jonathan,* with 60 known crew members and 142 known passengers, set off from San Francisco to Portland, Oregon, on what would be its final voyage. The passage north was stormy, and the ship put in at the sheltered harbor in Crescent City, California, near the Oregon border, on the night of July 29. In the early afternoon of July 30, the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* left Crescent City and headed into high and heavy seas. Unable to make sufficient progress, the order was given to turn back to Crescent City; alas, the return trip was never completed. Of the 202 listed aboard the ship (and an estimated 25 to 50 individuals not registered in the ship's manifest), just 21 are known to have survived!

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

787 **1876 MS-61 (NGC).** Satiny medium gold surfaces with rich rose highlights. Some areas of prooflike reflectivity are noted, as often seen for this date.

788 **1876 MS-60 (PCGS).** Strong cartwheel lustre present on lively honey gold surfaces.

Half Dozen Liberty Double Eagles

789 **Six Liberty double eagles,** all AU-58: ☆ 1883-S ☆ 1893 ☆ 1895-S ☆ 1896-S ☆ 1899-S ☆ 1907. These are uniformly nice for the grade. (Total: 6 pieces)

790 **1884-CC AU-58 (NGC).** Frosty honey gold with pale orange iridescence and strong lustre, especially on the reverse. A pleasing double eagle from the Carson City Mint.

The variety with a prominent raised "X" at the juncture of Liberty's neck and the next lowest hair curl. This mark was no doubt caused by heavy die polishing in that area; other lines are noted there, but none are directly related to the "X" mark mentioned here.

Interestingly, the Carson City Mint is now the Nevada State Museum – and one of the original presses is preserved in the building.

791 **Five San Francisco Mint MS-60 Liberty double eagles:** ☆ 1885-S ☆ 1894-S ☆ 1897-S ☆ 1901-S ☆ 1906-S. A lustrous quintette. (Total: 5 pieces)

Double Eagle Grouping

792 **Two lady Liberties escorted by three saints:** ☆ 1889-S AU-58 ☆ 1891-S Net EF-45; AU-55, lightly polished ☆ 1908 No Motto. AU-58 ☆ 1910-S AU-55 ☆ 1923-D MS-62. (Total: 5 pieces)

793 **Four MS-60 Liberty double eagles:** ☆ 1891-S ☆ 1897 ☆ 1898-S ☆ 1903-S. Four lustrous honey gold double eagles. (Total: 4 pieces)

Five Choice AU Liberty $20s

794 **Five Liberty double eagles, all AU-58:** ☆ 1892-S ☆ 1893-S ☆ 1895 ☆ 1896 ☆ 1900-S. A lustrous honey gold selection. (Total: 5 pieces)

Four Mint State Liberty $20

795 **Four Liberty double eagles, all MS-60:** ☆ 1895-S ☆ 1896-S ☆ 1901-S ☆ 1904. A lustrous quartette. (Total: 4 pieces)

Five Mint State Liberty Double Eagles

796 **A Mint State quintette of Liberty double eagles:** ☆ 1899 MS-61 ☆ 1900 MS-62, reverse digs ☆ 1904 MS-61 ☆ 1905-S MS-61, prooflike ☆ 1907-D MS-61. All are lustrous and attractive. (Total: 5 pieces)

Majestic Cameo Proof 1901 $20

96 Struck

(2x photo)

797 **1901 Proof-66 CAM (NGC).** Central devices are nicely frosted on both sides and stand out sharply from deeply mirrored fields. Rich yellow gold, immaculate surfaces, stunning visual appeal. A great rarity in the double eagle series, particularly so in this quality. The Bass Collection sales lacked a Proof specimen of this date, and the exceptional Norweb coin had a nick on the cheek. The Pittman coin showed "a few more hairlines in the fields and several on the face," a tribulation this piece is notably free of, but seems to define other examples of the issue. As Dave Bowers noted in cataloguing the Eliasberg specimen in 1982, "nicked and impaired coins are the rule, not the exception, in the few instances when specimens appear on the market." This piece *is* the exception, a beautiful quality example which is essentially unsurpassable.

NGC Census: 2; none finer.

798 **1903 MS-64 (NGC).** Highly lustrous honey gold with rich rose highlights. A pleasing coin overall; if judged alone, the reverse easily warrants a gem designation.

Gem Cameo Proof 1904 $20

The Finest Cameo Certified by PCGS

(2x photo)

799 **1904 Proof-65 CAM (PCGS).** A lovely cameo Proof of the date, with frosty golden motifs and deeply mirrored fields. One of 98 Proof double eagles of the date produced, though perhaps only 30-35 specimens are currently known. Of the surviving specimens, many are permanently impounded in museums and other institutions, and several others are impaired by cleaning or other misfortunes. The present coin is the finest example of the date to receive a "CAM" designation from PCGS, and is the ready equal to Bass:1941 (Part II, October 1999) for comparison. A remarkable coin that will draw a remarkable round of bidding activity.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer. Of the "non-CAM" Proofs of the date certified by PCGS, only *seven* have been graded Proof-65, again with none finer!

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Mint State 1904 $20

800 **1904 MS-65 (PCGS).** A frosty, satiny gem, ablaze with bright lustre and aglow with warm orange highlights. A readily available date in an uncommon state of preservation.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

801 **1904 MS-65 (PCGS)** Intense cartwheel lustre on bright, deep golden surfaces. A popular date at the gem level.

802 **1904 MS-64 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous with pastel orange iridescence and the eye appeal of a finer grade. Choice.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

803 **1904 MS-64 (PCGS).** Another frosty double eagle with strong lustre and great eye appeal for the grade.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Impressive Gem Proof MCMVII High Relief $20

A Classic American Coinage Rarity

804 **MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens. High Relief. Wire Rim. Proof-67 (NGC).** A superb gem Proof example of what is arguably America's most beautiful coinage design, the high-water mark of American coinage designs if you would, done by America's premier sculptor of the era, Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Satiny golden yellow matte-like surfaces display strong lustre and a generous amount of exquisite eye appeal. On the present coin, the splendid depiction of Liberty strides boldly into the future in all her full-blown 3-D glory, while America's symbolic icon, the bald eagle, flies through the rays of a new dawn on the reverse. Among the finest examples of the issue to be certified by NGC, and worthy of note as such. We suspect generous bidding will be the order of the day when this star of America's gold coinage series crosses the auction block.

NGC Census: 5; 4 finer (Proof-69 finest).

The MCMVII High Relief

Although known as the Rough Rider President, Theodore Roosevelt was perhaps the greatest patron of the arts to occupy the Executive Mansion since Thomas Jefferson. A scholar, adventurer, and winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Roosevelt took seriously his opportunity to leave a mark upon the American presidency and the nation in every way, from such grand objects as the military to more ordinary considerations such as the nation's coinage. He famously proclaimed, "we must show, not merely in great crises, but in the everyday affairs of life, the qualities of practical intelligence, of courage, of hardihood, and endurance, and above all the power of devotion to a lofty ideal." With the "American century" opening before him, Roosevelt enlisted one of the great sculptors of the era to create a coinage for everyday use "worthy of a civilized people," as Roosevelt said, "which is not true of our present coins." His idealism would be well rewarded with one of the most beloved coin designs ever created, authored by Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

Rising to the Presidency in 1901 upon the assassination of William McKinley, Roosevelt first became acquainted with Saint-Gaudens when he deliberately chose the sculptor to design Roosevelt's inaugural medal of 1905. The medal was unlike its predecessors, and Roosevelt identified Saint-Gaudens as the man to redesign the entire realm of American coinage in an effort to replace the banal designs by Charles Barber and George Morgan. The generally uninspired designs had much in common with contemporary coins from France – Roosevelt had a different vision for his nation.

"I want to make a suggestion," Roosevelt wrote to Saint-Gaudens in 1905, as the New Hampshire-based artist was employed on new designs. "I was looking at some gold coins of Alexander the Great today, and I was struck by their high relief. Would not it be well to have our coins in high relief, and also to have the rims raised?" Roosevelt asked earnestly. Saint-Gaudens knew he had an ally – an especially high ranking ally – for his own vision, and responded to Roosevelt with a tone of friendly approval: "You have hit the nail on the head with regard to the coinage." Saint-Gaudens continued his encouraging tone, but with a note of caution. "Perhaps an inquiry from you would not receive the antagonistic reply from those who have the say in such matters that would certainly be made to me." Saint-Gaudens was referring to a 15-year-old rivalry between himself and the insolent Mint engraver Charles Barber, whose inflexibility and self-centeredness was well known.

In Saint-Gaudens' words, he envisioned "some kind of a (possibly winged) figure of Liberty striding forward as if on a mountain top … in hand perhaps a flaming torch, the drapery would be flowing in the breeze. My idea is to make it a living thing and typical of progress." His artistic conception of Liberty was ideal to Roosevelt – "it would be beautiful" the President wrote back, and informed the

sculptor that he had "summoned all the mint people, and I am going to see if I cannot persuade them that coins of the Grecian type but with raised rims will meet the commercial needs of the day." He correctly anticipated the opposition that would accompany the designs.

Roosevelt met with Leslie M. Shaw, the Secretary of the Treasury, in the last days of 1905 to discuss what he called his "pet baby" – the ideas of design change and a high relief gold coin (the $20 denomination was not yet decided upon). The President recounted the meeting in a January 1906 letter to Saint-Gaudens, saying, "Shaw was really very nice about it. Of course he thinks I am a mere crack-brained lunatic on the subject." By early 1906, Saint-Gaudens was well into the modeling phase of the new designs, but his health was deteriorating. Roosevelt's enthusiasm for the project continued unabated, but Saint-Gaudens' progress was slow indeed. The sculptor was in and out of a doctor's direct care and had to turn much of the responsibility for the project over to his assistant, Henry Hering. Saint-Gaudens' humor remained though – he told Roosevelt via letter in May 1906 that "if you succeed in getting the best of the polite Mr. Barber down there, you will have done a greater work than putting through your Panama Canal."

Mr. Barber had reason to be displeased, of course, as the Mint did not traditionally use outside help and he took Roosevelt's choice of Saint-Gaudens as an affront to his own talents and the grandeur of his position as Chief Engraver. So he became an obstructionist to the plan, even going so far as to design his own double eagle patterns in 1906, now known as Judd-1773. Henry Hering had the unenviable job of interacting with Barber on the issue, even as Roosevelt and Saint-Gaudens continued their brainstorming and exchange of witticisms. In early 1907, after Hering's careful shepherding of Saint-Gaudens' models through the reducing and die-sinking phases, a tiny number of what are now called "Extremely High Relief" MCMVII double eagles were struck. Nine separate impressions were required to raise the designs fully, and the coins were utterly unusable as money. But as art objects they passed with flying colors.

The High Relief MCMVII represents something of an attempt at compromise. With the relief reduced somewhat, Hering prepared new models that he believed would satisfy the continuous complaints of Barber that the coins could not be struck under normal conditions, would not stack, and other issues that bespoke small-minded petulance. "It is not in any sense the fault of this department that the dies are not ready," wrote a defensive Barber to the Superintendent of the Mint. Saint-Gaudens died in New Hampshire in August 1907. He would never see one of the MCMVII double eagles in circulation, but Henry Hering stood by his mission of seeing the design through to completion.

The Mint coined 11,250 pieces in high relief even though the detailed dies still required three separate blows on a special hydraulic press to bring up all the intricacies. These pieces were struck, by direct order of the President, even as Barber had his plate full with creating hubs and dies for the lower relief 1907 Arabic date coins. A November 22 order for 6,000 double eagles struck with high relief was satisfied, and the coins were issued for commerce in December. Immediately, and perhaps predictably, bankers complained about the inability of the wire-edge coins to stack. With slight modification to the design, flat rim pieces were created that stacked better; Barber pompously proclaimed that "they are so well made that I fear the President may demand the continuance of this particular coin, and while the effect of the mill is good it does not increase the output." Roosevelt loved the newly created pieces struck in high relief and distributed them with pride to friends. In one letter that accompanied a brand new high relief MCMVII double eagle, the President proclaimed it to be "the best coin that has been struck for 2,000 years." Chief Engraver Barber, of course, disagreed, and laid low the triumphant relief for the regular issues that Hering believed were a disgrace to Saint-Gaudens' memory.

Since their initial coinage the high relief Saint-Gaudens double eagle have been among the most desirable of United States coins, trading for a premium nearly as soon as they were released to coin collectors who correctly predicted the classic nature of the designs. Their designs were chosen with deliberation and care, the joint project of an artist and statesman to produce a majestic piece of gold currency that would say more about the nation that issued it than any coin previously struck at the U.S. Mint. Today the pieces are still scarce and highly desired, with many pieces suffering at the hands of non-collectors who proudly handled, polished, and carried their prized double eagles to the detriment of the coin itself. But any specimen, whether flawless or a pocket piece, can still be an object of pride today – just as they were in 1907 when Roosevelt predicted he would be impeached for his "pet crime" but called that "a very cheap payment!" for his involvement in the finest design in the history of American coining art.

Gem Mint State MCMVII High Relief $20

Wire Rim

(2x photo)

805 **MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens. High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-65 (PCGS).** An incredibly lovely coin for the grade in many respects; the satiny fields and boldly struck motifs are bathed in rich orange-gold lustre, and the relief seems even more pronounced as a result. The surfaces stand up well to careful scrutiny, with a tiny, toned planchet flaw at the eagle's wing near 3:00 the only "reward" for your magnified attention. One of the finest MS-65 MCMVII High Relief Saint-Gaudens double eagles you are likely to encounter!

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Another MCMVII High Relief $20

(2x photo)

806 **MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens. High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-63,** or so but with extremely faint hairlines barely detectable in the central portion of the eagle's wing. Regardless of the imperfection, the obverse challenges full gem quality and we feel that the coin deserves careful consideration as a truly remarkable example of this most highly prized issue. Frosty yellow gold with extraordinary eye appeal for the assigned grade. All things considered, an interested bidder is sure to find this specimen nearly irresistible.

Another MCMVII High Relief $20

Good Things Come In All Grades!

807 **MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens. High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-62 (NGC).** Rich, satiny honey gold with deeper highlights in the protected areas. Another lovely example of what many consider to be the epitome of coinage art in the entire American coinage spectrum. Choice for the grade; we've all seen lesser coins than this given higher grades by various third-party grading services! The present coin is a "solid" MS-62 coin, no less (although perhaps a touch "more"). Nicely struck with full, unbroken lustre, and just a few minor ticks from a finer grade.

One More Nice MCMVII $20

808 **MCMVII (1907) Saint-Gaudens. High Relief. Flat Rim. MS-62.** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with distinctive olive highlights. Sharply struck and simply splendid to admire. The Saint-Gaudens design never fails to garner admiration, and the present coin will prove no exception to that rule. We can say, almost with certainty, the present coin will find its way to the cabinet of an appreciative collector of classic American coinage.

809 **Saint-Gaudens $20 threesome:** ☆ 1907 Arabic Date. MS-61 ☆ 1908-D Motto. MS-60 ☆ 1914-S MS-60. Highly lustrous. (Total: 3 pieces)

1908 No Motto *Wells Fargo* $20

810 **1908 No Motto. *Wells Fargo Hoard.* MS-66 (PCGS).** A lustrous, satiny gem with pale rose iridescence in abundance. From the Wells Fargo Hoard that appeared in the marketplace during the 1990s.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Another 1908 No Motto *Wells Fargo* $20

811 **1908 No Motto. *Wells Fargo Hoard.* MS-66 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous with just a touch of toning.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Another 1908 No Motto *Wells Fargo* $20

812 **1908 No Motto. *Wells Fargo Hoard.* MS-66 (PCGS).** Satiny honey gold with a trace of olive on the reverse.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Another 1908 No Motto *Wells Fargo* $20

813 **1908 No Motto. *Wells Fargo Hoard.* MS-66 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous honey gold.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Another 1908 No Motto *Wells Fargo* $20

814 **1908 No Motto. *Wells Fargo Hoard.* MS-66 (PCGS).** A satiny and lustrous gem with pale rose highlights.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Another 1908 No Motto *Wells Fargo* $20

815 **1908 No Motto. *Wells Fargo Hoard.* MS-66 (PCGS).** Satiny honey gold with distinctive olive highlights.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Trio of 1908 No Motto *Wells Fargo* $20s

816 **Threesome of 1908 No Motto double eagles from the Wells Fargo Hoard,** all certified MS-66 by PCGS. A lustrous, satiny trio. (Total: 3 pieces)
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

1908 No Motto *Wells Fargo* $20 Trio
The Final Three

817 **Threesome of 1908 No Motto double eagles from the Wells Fargo Hoard,** all certified MS-66 by PCGS. Another nice trio. (Total: 3 pieces)
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

818 **Three Uncirculated Saint-Gaudens double eagles:** ☆ 1908 No Motto. MS-60 ☆ 1920 MS-61 ☆ 1922 MS-60. All are lustrous. (Total: 3 pieces)

Half Dozen Saint-Gaudens $20s

819 **Six Saint-Gaudens double eagles,** all AU-58 unless noted: ☆ 1908-D No Motto ☆ 1908-D Motto ☆ 1909-D AU-55 ☆ 1910-S ☆ 1914-D ☆ 1923. A nice group. (Total: 6 pieces)

Choice Mint State 1908 $20
With Motto

820 **1908 Motto. MS-64 (PCGS).** Satiny, frosty honey gold surfaces explode with pale rose iridescence. A truly choice Mint State example of the second design type of the date, here with IN GOD WE TRUST added in the reverse design. Choice for the grade.

821 **Trio of choice Mint State $20 gold pieces, each graded MS-63 (NGC):** ☆ 1909-S ☆ 1915-S ☆ 1916-S. A nicely matched threesome, all brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 3 pieces)

822 **Pair of Mint State $20 gold:** ☆ 1910 MS-63 (NGC) ☆ 1912 MS-62 (NGC). Both are brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 2 pieces)

Gem Uncirculated 1910-D $20

823 **1910-D MS-65 (NGC).** A bright and satiny gem graced with intense lustre and a whisper of pale rose iridescence. A thoroughly appealing coin in all respects.

Four MS-62 Saint-Gaudens $20s

824 **Foursome of MS-62 Saint-Gaudens double eagles:** ☆ 1911-D ☆ 1913 ☆ 1925 ☆ 1928. All are bright and lustrous. (Total: 4 pieces)

825 **1913-D MS-64 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with rich rose and pale sky blue iridescence. Choice for the grade.

826 **1913-S MS-61 (NGC).** A high degree of lustre bursts forth on satiny, honey gold surfaces. Choice for the grade.

827 **1914-S MS-63 (NGC).** Brilliant and lustrous honey gold surfaces.

Desirable 1920-S $20 Rarity

(2x photo)

828 **1920-S AU-58,** faintly cleaned long ago. Bright honey gold with a high degree of lustre and physical charm. An important rarity in the Saint-Gaudens double eagle series, this despite a generous mintage of 558,000 pieces. No doubt much of that mintage was later relegated to the government's melting pots upon Franklin D. Roosevelt ending the gold standard in 1933. David Akers called this date "rare in any condition and it is very rare in full Mint State." He then goes on to note, "most of the ones I have seen were only EF or AU." The present coin holds up well under careful scrutiny and would make an ideal addition to any advanced double eagle cabinet.

829 **1922 MS-64 (NGC).** Lustrous honey gold surfaces with superb aesthetic appeal.

Attractive Double Eagle Duo

830 **Pair of PCGS-certified double eagles:** ☆ 1923 MS-64. Lustrous rose-gold ☆ 1928 MS-65. Satiny honey gold. A nice pair. (Total: 2 pieces)

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Three Uncirculated Saint-Gaudens $20s

831 **Three Mint State Saint-Gaudens double eagles:** ☆ 1923-D MS-63 ☆ 1924 MS-62 ☆ 1927 MS-63. A choice and lustrous threesome. (Total: 3 pieces)

832 **1926 MS-65 (NGC).** Bright yellow gold with an excellent display of cartwheel lustre. A lovely gem example for type.

833 **Four Liberty Head gold issues:** Gold dollars: ☆ 1851 AU-55 ☆ 1852 AU-55. Quarter eagles: ☆ 1857 AU-55 ☆ 1903 AU-55. (Total: 4 pieces)

Mint State Gold Coin Group

834 **Quintette of popular gold issues, all Mint State:** Quarter eagles: ☆ 1904 MS-63 ☆ 1926 MS-62. Half eagles: ☆ 1906-D MS-63. First year of Denver Mint issues ☆ 1908 Indian MS-62. Double eagle: ☆ 1908 No Motto. MS-62. A nice selection. (Total: 5 pieces)

835 **Indian gold selection. All AU-55.** Quarter eagles: ☆ 1911 ☆ 1928 ☆ 1929 (2). Half eagles: ☆ 1909-D ☆ 1911. All are lustrous. (Total: 6 pieces)

COMMEMORATIVE SILVER COINS

The following commemorative quarters and halves include many gems from the Luther A. Breck Collection, an "old-time" collector who had an exceptional eye for quality and picked many beautiful coins for inclusion in his set. His superb gem Isabella quarter is a standout (as is the Proof that precedes it!), and others maintain that exceptional level of quality.

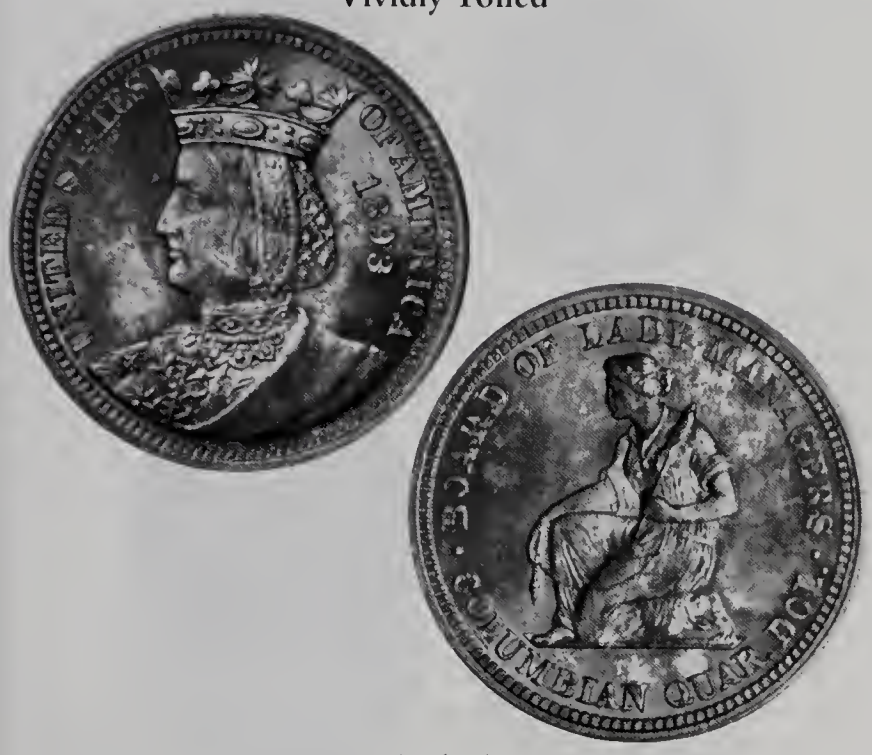
Rare Proof 1893 Isabella Quarter

(2x photo)

836 **1893 Isabella quarter. Proof-64 (NGC).** Largely brilliant with just a nuance of pale champagne on each side. A modicum of frost on the motifs makes for faint yet pleasing cameo contrast on both sides. One of 103 Proofs of the issue struck, based on Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia* where it noted "Proofs: first 100, plus nos. 400, 1492, 1892. As with the 1892 halves, most original numbered envelopes perished; see Swiatek-Breen pp. 114-115. Die file marks around MB, knife rims, obverse clockwise 10:00 to 4:00, reverse almost complete." The present coin would be a remarkable addition to any U.S. commemorative coin collection.

The 1893 Isabella quarter dollar, the first such commemorative issue in the denomination (and the *only* such issue until 1976) was the brain child of Mrs. Potter Palmer, a well-known Chicago socialite, and, as Q. David Bowers called her in his *Commemorative Coins of the United States, A Complete Encyclopedia,* the "Grande dame of the Exposition." She was also on the Board of Lady Managers of the World's Columbian Exposition, which august body was instigated by none other than Susan B. Anthony (whose likeness graced a quarter dollar-sized "mini" dollar coin 86 years later). Approved by law on March 3, 1893, the Isabella quarter dollar soon became a reality. Designed by Charles Barber (perhaps modeled after designs by Kenyon Cox), the coin was authorized in a quantity of 40,000 pieces, though an extra 23 pieces were struck for assay purposes. Of the 40,023 coins produced, just 24,214 were actually sold and distributed, with the remaining 15,809 pieces melted.

Gem Uncirculated 1893 Isabella 25¢
Vividly Toned



(2x photo)

837 **1893 Isabella quarter. MS-66 (PCGS).** A high degree of lustre cascades beneath rich electric blue, rose, and deep honey gold highlights. A visually stunning gem that will appeal to collectors who appreciate deep, rich toning on their 19th-century commemoratives.

Gem Mint State 1893 Isabella Quarter

(2x photo)

838 **1893 Isabella quarter. MS-66 (PCGS).** Strong lustre and a hint of gold at the rims combine warmly on the frosty pale silver gray surfaces of this attractive gem. A visually enchanting example of our nation's first commemorative quarter dollar (or "silver souvenir" coins, as they were called at the time), instigated by the Board of Lady Managers of the World's Columbian Exposition — as plainly stated on the reverse. Sharply struck and undeniably appealing.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

839 **1937 Antietam. MS-66 (PCGS).** A frosty gem with pale golden highlights on superbly lustrous surfaces. A popular issue that commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest day in the history of America–some 20,000+ deaths occurred in a single day's fighting.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

840 **1938 Arkansas. MS-65 (PCGS).** Satiny, fully brilliant matte-like surfaces with a tiny splash of violet on the reverse. Sharply struck.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

841 **1936-S Bay Bridge. MS-66 (PCGS).** Lively lustre and pale champagne highlights greatly embellish the frosty surfaces of this lovely gem. Struck to commemorate the opening of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in 1936, with examples of the coin first offered for sale at toll booths on the bridge on opening day!
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

842 **Pair of MS-66 PCGS-certified commemorative half dollars:** ☆ 1935 Boone. Faint golden highlights ☆ 1936 Bridgeport. Fully brilliant and highly lustrous. A nice pair. (Total: 2 pieces)
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

843 **1925-S California. MS-65 (PCGS).** A high degree of lustre complements the bright silver surfaces, as does a whisper of faint rose iridescence. Choice for the grade.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

844 **1936-S Cincinnati. MS-65 (PCGS).** A frosty, lustrous matte-like gem with strong eye appeal. This popular issue celebrates Cincinnati as "A Music Center of America," as depicted by the portrait of "America's troubadour," Stephen Foster, which appears on the obverse.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

845 **Quartette of MS-65 PCGS-certified commemorative half dollars:** ☆ 1936 Cleveland ☆ 1924 Huguenot ☆ 1918 Lincoln. Actually the Centennial of the State of Illinois half dollar, but Abe Lincoln (a native of Kentucky) takes center stage ☆ 1936 Lynchburg. A boldly lustrous and highly attractive gathering of gems. (Total: 4 pieces)
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

846 **1892 Columbian Exposition. MS-66 (PCGS).** A satiny golden gray gem with bursts of rich electric blue at the rims and splashes of rose and rich gold elsewhere. A lovely gem specimen of America's first commemorative half dollar issue, struck for the 1892-93 World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago Illinois. Notably, PCGS has only graded six examples of the date at a finer grade level (and we suspect many of those will not be released from the important collections in which they now reside at any time in the near future).

847 **1935 Connecticut. MS-65 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous with a faint violet glow at the rims.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

848 **1936 Delaware. MS-66 (PCGS).** A gorgeous gem with explosive lustre and near-flawless surfaces. Choice!
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

849 **1936 Battle of Gettysburg. MS-65 (PCGS).** A blazing gem of a coin with bright, unyielding lustre and a nuance of lively champagne toning on both sides. The commemorative with *three* dates: 1863, the year of the battle; 1936, the year of issue; 1938, the year the 75th anniversary of the battle would be celebrated.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

850 **1936 Lynchburg. MS-67 (ICG).** Satiny surfaces show strong lustre with pale rose and champagne toning highlights. An attractive gem in many ways. Struck to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the founding of Lynchburg, Virginia. Senator Carter Glass is featured on the obverse, despite the fact that he was vehemently opposed to the appearance of *any* living American on our coinage.

851 **Four PCGS-certified MS-65 commemorative half dollars:** ☆ 1920 Maine ☆ 1934 Maryland ☆ 1937-D Oregon ☆ 1936 Rhode Island. All are lustrous and all have a shade or two of pale golden toning. (Total: 4 pieces)
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Lovely 1921 Missouri Centennial 50¢
Gem Mint State

852 **1921 Missouri. Plain. MS-65 (PCGS).** Warm lustre glows radiantly on satiny pale golden surfaces. A scintillating dash or two of iridescent rose and sky blue serve to enhance the overall appeal. A stark yet beautiful design type (at least to this writer), uncluttered as it is by the legends LIBERTY, IN GOD WE TRUST, and E PLURIBUS UNUM (say, isn't that *illegal* in U.S. coinage law?). Designed by Robert Aitken, who also designed the MCMXV (1915) Panama-Pacific Exposition $50 gold "slugs" (of which two gem Mint State pieces, one each of the octagonal and round format from the Breck Collection are offered elsewhere in the present catalogue!). A beautiful example of a key issue in the U.S. commemorative series.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Superb Gem 1926-S Oregon Trail

853 **1926-S Oregon Trail. MS-68 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous silver gray at the centers with an incredible burst of color changing from soft gold to champagne, pale blue, sea green, magenta, and violet going toward the rims. Even under magnification the coin is virtually mark free. A truly superb and original Oregon Trail suitable for the finest collection of silver commemorative issues. If the present cataloguer was a collector of this series, every coin in the collection would look just like this one!
PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

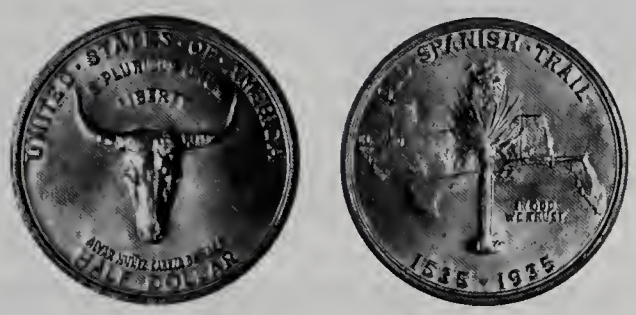
854 **Four more PCGS-certified MS-65 commemorative half dollars:** ☆ 1936 Robinson-Arkansas. Pale golden hues ☆ 1925 Stone Mountain. Brilliant ☆ 1936 Wisconsin. Brilliant ☆ 1936 York. Brilliant. A nice foursome. (Total: 4 pieces)

Gem Mint State 1926 Sesquicentennial 50¢

855 **1926 Sesquicentennial. MS-65 (PCGS).** Intense cartwheel lustre blazes its way through an even sheen of pale violet and champagne iridescence. Nicely struck at the centers, especially so for such a low-relief issue. Amazingly, just seven examples of the date have been graded finer by PCGS, which speaks volumes about its rarity in top-notch grades.
From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Lustrous Gem 1926 Sesquicentennial 50¢

856 1926 Sesquicentennial. MS-65 (PCGS). Deep, intense champagne iridescence graces highly lustrous silver gray surfaces. A popular issue, especially so in gem Mint State. Only seven examples of the date have received a finer grade from PCGS, all of those called MS-66.



857 1935 Spanish Trail. MS-66 (PCGS). Frosty silver gray with strong lustre and a hint of pale golden toning. A sharp and attractive example of a key date in the commemorative half dollar series, struck to commemorate the overland trek of Spanish explorer Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca from Florida to Mexico in 1535-36 (*Cabeza de vaca* loosely translates from Spanish as "head of a cow").

Many of today's collectors may imagine the Cabeza de Vaca expedition as a horde of brightly armored Spanish *conquistadores* astride their fiery steeds, busily traversing the early 16th century wilderness of America's Gulf Coast while bringing God and civilization to the heathens in the New World. The actual expedition was far from that idyllic scenario. In actuality, the Cabeza de Vaca expedition was shipwrecked in northern Florida after a severe hurricane, and the survivors were immediately taken prisoner by a tribe of Native Americans, at which time the horror began. Members of the expedition were killed and eaten daily, some of them meeting their fate in a bizarre game wherein neighboring tribes actually got together and kicked prisoners around, to their death, in some garish form of "football." Prisoners were sold and traded to other tribes, sometimes marched for days at a time, each not knowing if it would be his turn to be eaten when the sun went down. To make a long and gruesome saga short, Cabeza de Vaca and one other Spaniard (his *mulatto* hand-servant) were the only survivors from the original three shiploads of Spaniards who set sail with the expedition. They finally found other Spaniards in Mexico City after escaping their eastern captors and spending several years wandering and hiding in the southwest in search of other Spanish settlements (in Colorado, they were actually taken for gods and treated with the first kindness they had been shown since that fateful landfall in north Florida). All in all, the true story of the expedition makes for fascinating—if somewhat graphic—reading!

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

858 1934 Texas. MS-67 (NGC). Highly lustrous with fiery gold and carmine iridescence on the obverse, but just a hint of the same is seen on the reverse. Only one example of the date has received a finer grade from NGC.

NGC Census: 23; 1 finer (MS-68).

Gem 1936 Texas PDS Set

859 1936-PDS Texas set, all certified by NGC: ☆ 1936 MS-67 ☆ 1936-D MS-67 ☆ 1936-S MS-66. All are lustrous and delicately toned. A nice group. (Total: 3 pieces)

860 1925 Fort Vancouver. MS-65 (PCGS). Intense lustre spins broadly on fully brilliant surfaces. A lively, lovely gem in all respects.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

861 1927 Vermont. Glorious radiant lustre explodes on the brilliant surfaces of this beautiful gem. Struck to commemorate the Battle of Bennington, Vermont, on August 16, 1777, one of the first important American victories of the Revolution, at which New Hampshire's own General John Stark's (of "Live free or die; death is not the greatest evil" fame) militia played an important part. The present coin is as beautiful as America's efforts in the battle were victorious!

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

COMMEMORATIVE GOLD COINS

Again led by the Luther A. Breck Collection, the following lots of commemorative gold coins will long be remembered for their consistent quality. The Breck Collection, the current second finest PCGS "Set Registry" collection of gold commemoratives, includes every issue in gem MS-65 grade, including both the round and octagonal 1915-S Panama-Pacific $50 coins, the largest and most impressive gold coins ever struck in this country. Add to these coins other nice consignments, including a gem Cameo Proof 1903 McKinley gold dollar (one of the first 100 struck), and you have the makings of a classic offering.

1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition Gold $1

Jefferson Portrait
Superb Gem Uncirculated
None Graded Finer by PCGS

(2x photo)

862 **1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition gold dollar. Jefferson portrait. MS-67 (PCGS).** A superb gem, fully frosted, sharply struck, and richly toned with wisps of pale rose, carmine and sky blue. A lovely coin, at once both physically imposing and aesthetically enchanting. While PCGS has certified nearly three score examples of the date at the MS-67 grade level, no examples of the issue have been certified finer.

PCGS Population: 58; none finer

We hear that the Louisiana Purchase will be commemorated once again on U.S. coins, these of a circulating variety. The nickels will apparently feature the old Reich design of the early Peace medals, first struck under Jefferson. With a once-done commemorative featuring a multiply-done design, we imagine it's only a matter of time until we start commemorating past commemoratives! Will there be a 2036 Cincinnati Music Center Half Dollar centennial quarter in our future?

Superb Gem 1903 Jefferson $1

(2x photo)

863 **1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition gold dollar. Jefferson portrait. MS-65 (PCGS).** A superlative and glowing gem, with bright even yellow gold, rich lustre, and immaculate surfaces. In an old-style PCGS holder, as are most from this impressive consignment, and almost certainly worthy of a higher grade in today's grading marketplace. The lustre is warm, lightly reflective in areas but mostly frosty, and only a hairline beneath the date awaits discovery after long inspection. A truly premium specimen of this popular issue.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition Gold $1

Choice Mint State, Jefferson Portrait

(2x photo)

864 **1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition gold dollar. Jefferson portrait. MS-64 (PCGS).** Intense deep orange iridescence on frosty honey gold surfaces. A sharp and attractive coin for the grade.

Very Rare Proof 1903 McKinley Dollar

Proof-66 CAM (PCGS)

The Crème de la Crème of Gold Commemorative Coinage

(3x photo)

865 **1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition gold dollar. McKinley portrait. Proof-66 CAM (PCGS).** Boldly frosted central devices exhibit extreme contrast with the smooth and deeply mirrored fields. A beautiful jewel, essentially free of post-striking flaws, as struck or close to it. Some tiny planchet chips are noted, under the first S of STATES, and under R and second A of AMERICA on the obverse. The reverse is basically flawless, naturally swollen as a by-product of several short die cracks from the periphery and at central reverse. We count no fewer than 11 short peripheral cracks under extreme magnified scrutiny, most notably at S in LOUISIANA. An intricate series of die cracks at central reverse produced a concave die face; three descend from the olive leaf to 9, 0, and 3 of the date. A fascinating specimen technically, as it seems illogical that a Proof coin from a tiny mintage would be struck from a badly produced die that was likely damaged during improper hardening. These cracks are so fragile and thin, and the fields are so prone to reflection, that they seem to never appear in photographs of these very rare issues and are usually not described, though the primary Norweb specimen (yes, amazingly, they owned two) does show traces of at least one of the peripheral cracks. It does not seem probable that multiple dies were used to produce the Proofs.

Only 100 specimens were struck in Proof, distributed in large presentation certificates that proclaimed that they were "one of the first one hundred impressions from the McKinley dies." It is surprising that a specimen so framed, even though covered by a thin tissue layer at the time of issue, would remain so impeccably preserved. The McKinley Proofs appear less frequently than the Jefferson Proofs of the same year; the last auction appearance of this type in Proof we know of was the coin in the Bass collection (1999), though at least two Jefferson Proofs have appeared at auction in the last three years. The Bass coin, for the record, was not as nice as this and showed a serious obverse spot.

The appearance of this piece is an important opportunity for the advanced enthusiast of gold commemorative coinage, and many years could go by without the chance to buy another, let alone the equal of this impressive example. No matter how nice a set of commemorative gold coins is, this coin will stand out as an obvious highlight.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (Proof-67). This is the only CAM certified in any grade by PCGS, so within the designation the population is 1 with none finer.

Notably, the specimen in the 1977 ANA sale (the 5th piece struck) shows the same bowing of the reverse, though the photo is not large enough to ascertain whether or not this is the identical specimen. The cameo surfaces lend credence to the idea that this is among the very first struck, so this example and that piece may in fact be the same coin.

Lovely 1903 McKinley Gem $1

(2x photo)

866 **1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition gold dollar. McKinley portrait. MS-65 (PCGS)**. Fully frosty with rich maize yellow gold lustre and pale olive highlights. Exceptional eye appeal and surface quality, a radiant delight in the round. A tiny toning spot beneath RI on the obverse does not detract. A gem worthy of any collection of commemorative gold coins.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Another MS-65 McKinley $1

(2x photo)

867 **1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition gold dollar. McKinley portrait. MS-65 (PCGS).** Deep yellow golden centers yield to lightly reflective pale olive peripheries, a very attractive effect. Impressive sharpness and strike, faint die crack through P in EXPOSITION not present on preceding lot. Light toning splash at IS of LOUIS at base of reverse. Another exquisite specimen of this issue.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition Gold $1

Gem Mint State
McKinley Portrait

(2x photo)

868 **1903 Louisiana Purchase Exposition gold dollar. McKinley portrait. MS-65 (NGC).** Satiny deep honey gold surfaces display intense lustre and a whisper of pale rose iridescence. An area of violet toning is noted at AT in STATES. An attractive gem in all regards.

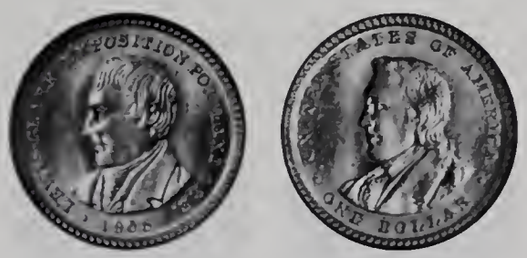
Amazing Gem 1904 Lewis and Clark $1

(2x photo)

869 **1904 Lewis and Clark Exposition gold dollar. MS-65 (PCGS).** One of the nicest examples of this issue we have seen, with lively surfaces exhibiting superb cartwheel lustre and rich reflectivity on bright golden yellow surfaces. Sharply struck and free of significant flecks, this piece has clearly been well preserved and remains nearly immaculate. Suitable for the finest collection, a piece that will undoubtedly sell for a premium price in this quality.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Bright Gem 1905 Lewis and Clark $1 Key



(2x photo)

870 **1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition gold dollar. MS-65 (PCGS).** A simply dazzling specimen, with deeply reflective surface showing rich yellow color and abundant flashy lustre. The dies have been finely polished, giving this specimen both traces of frost and bright prooflike appeal. Sharply struck and immaculate, one can look at this coin and wonder what more a specialist in the gold commemorative series could ask for in a specimen of this rarity. A superb example, one not to be easily surpassed.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

1905 Lewis & Clark Gold $1

Choice Mint State

(2x photo)

871 **1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition gold dollar. MS-64 (NGC).** Bright and satiny honey gold with strong bursts of yellow gold lustre. A pleasing coin that is just a well-hidden mark away from a strong gem grade. Decidedly choice for the assigned grade, as a slow, appreciative examination will reveal.

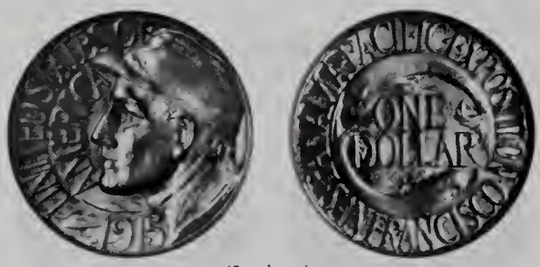
Especially Lustrous 1915-S Pan-Pac $1

(2x photo)

872 **1915-S Panama-Pacific Exposition gold dollar. MS-65 (PCGS).** Superb cartwheel lustre on satiny yellow gold surfaces. A pristine gem, with no marks revealed even under a glass and the eye appeal of a far higher grade. While this issue is occasionally seen somewhat dull, this piece is bright and beautiful. The mintmark is heavily repunched with a ghost impression to the southeast, Breen-7436, called "Very Rare." A lovely example of this impeccably composed design.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Uncirculated 1915-S Panama-Pacific $1



(2x photo)

873 **1915-S Panama-Pacific Exposition gold dollar. MS-65 (NGC).** Bright and lustrous honey gold with rich rose, and pale sky blue iridescence. Sharp and appealing, and definitely a gem in all regards.

Gem Uncirculated 1916 McKinley Gold $1
Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

(2x photo)

874 **1916 McKinley gold dollar. MS-67 (PCGS).** A splendid gem of the finest order! Satiny honey gold surfaces are ablaze with frosty lustre and traces of pale rose iridescence. Absolutely gem in all respects, both physically and visually. PCGS has not certified a finer example of this date, and a glance at the present coin will serve to show why—there is not much room for improvement on the present coin! Certain to please, and just as certain to grace an all-star cabinet of gem commemorative U.S. gold issues.

PCGS Population: 42; none finer.

1916 McKinley Gold $1
Another Gem Uncirculated Specimen

(2x photo)

875 **1916 McKinley gold dollar. MS-66 (NGC).** A splendid gem for the grade. Satiny honey gold with intense cartwheel lustre and pale rose highlights. Virtually unimproveable in quality or aesthetic appeal.

Radiant Gem 1916 McKinley $1

(2x photo)

876 **1916 McKinley gold dollar. MS-65 (PCGS).** Impeccable cartwheel lustre on rich golden yellow surfaces. Beautifully preserved, finer than a "typical" gem specimen of this date. Natural struck-through above M of McKinley on obverse, tiny copper spot at central reverse, superlative eye appeal. An exceptional specimen for the savvy collector.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Frosty 1916 McKinley Gold $1

(2x photo)

877 **1916 McKinley gold dollar. MS-65 (PCGS).** Medium yellow gold with pleasing frosty lustre. Excellent eye appeal and originality, splash of deep gold toning at base of obverse. A most acceptable specimen of this issue.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Exceptional 1917 McKinley $1 Rarity

(2x photo)

878 **1917 McKinley gold dollar. MS-65 (PCGS).** Pale olive and deep yellow gold tones blend in a remarkably attractive fashion beneath impressive lustrous cartwheel. The visual appeal outweighs the numerical grade, with lively surfaces and excellent overall quality. A single tick in the left obverse field is noted for accuracy under magnified scrutiny. Far rarer than the 1916 issue, this dollar will be a highlight of a gem quality set of commemorative gold issues.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem 1917 McKinley Gold $1

(2x photo)

879 **1917 McKinley gold dollar. MS-65 (PCGS).** A high degree of lustre brightens the honey gold surfaces of this impressive gem. A sheen of pale rose iridescence graces the high points. Always desirable at the gem level for its beauty and rarity.

Bold 1922 Grant $1 Gem
No Star

(2x photo)

880 **1922 Grant gold dollar. No Star. MS-65 (PCGS).** Deep yellow gold with pristine surfaces and immaculate fields. A worthy gem, particularly fine compared to other coins of this grade, with abundant lustre and no flaws noted under scrutiny. A simply glorious example of the No Star variety, which despite similar mintages is significantly scarcer than the With Star type in high grades.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Another Superb 1922 Grant No Star $1

(2x photo)

881 **1922 Grant gold dollar. No Star. MS-65 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold with light reflectivity and satiny lustre. An immaculate and beautiful specimen with remarkably even color and splendid visual appeal. A future highlight in a carefully assembled collection of classic commemoratives.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Exemplary 1922 Grant With Star $1

(2x photo)

882 **1922 Grant gold dollar. With Star. MS-65 (PCGS).** Impressive deep maize yellow gold with satiny lustre. Excellent surface quality, lightly reflective at the peripheries, a delightful piece to behold. Two tiny specks above ONE are noted under high magnification. An especially desirable specimen of this scarce and diminutive coin.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Frosty 1922 Grant With Star $1 Gem

(2x photo)

883 **1922 Grant gold dollar. With Star. MS-65 (PCGS).** Even and beautiful pale yellow gold with hints of pale olive, a lovely shade for this sometimes dark or mottled issue. Frosty and bright, a single copper spot is well hidden at central reverse. A very pretty example.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Lovely 1915-S Pan-Pac $2.50
MS-66 (PCGS)

(2x photo)

884 **1915-S Panama-Pacific Exposition $2.50. MS-66 (PCGS).** Deep yellow gold with rich satiny lustre. The unusual surfaces of this issue, with its manifold tiny swirls, sometimes gives even high-grade pieces a dull look, but this specimen is lively and pleasing with pristine fields. Decades of careful handling have preserved this coin admirably. Only 14 pieces have been certified finer, all graded MS-67.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

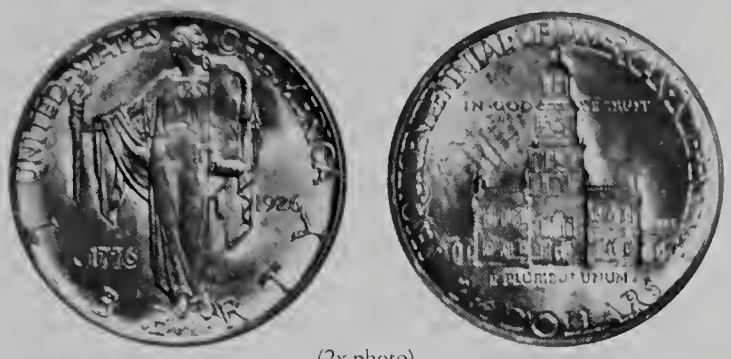
Worthy Gem Pan-Pac $2.50

(2x photo)

885 **1915-S Panama-Pacific Exposition $2.50. MS-65 (PCGS).** Frosty lustre rests comfortably on even light yellow gold surfaces. Attractive and pleasing in every respect, a gem by any definition.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Superb 1926 Sesquicentennial $2.50



(2x photo)

886 **1926 Sesquicentennial $2.50. MS-65 (PCGS).** Beautiful deep butter yellow gold with impeccable satiny lustre on both obverse and reverse. A stunning specimen, remarkably bright and attractive with a bold central strike. Light splash of toning at base of lowest drape on obverse figure. As nice as can be for the assigned grade.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Another Lovely Gem 1926 Sesqui $2.50

(2x photo)

887 **1926 Sesquicentennial $2.50. MS-65 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with traces of pale olive and resplendent satiny lustre. An impressive quality example, free of spotting or other flaws. A quality conscious collector who has carefully chosen other coins in his or her set will be very satisfied with this piece.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

GEM 1915-S PANAMA-PACIFIC SET FROM THE BRECK COLLECTION

Gem Uncirculated 1915-S Panama-Pacific 50¢

888 **1915-S Panama-Pacific Exposition half dollar. MS-65 (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous with satiny silver surfaces. A faint halo of pale champagne can be seen at the rim on each side. Nicely struck for the issue. The only silver commemorative issue made for the Exposition, the Panama-Pacific half dollar is also the first commemorative to feature a representation of Liberty (here she appears as Columbia), as well as the first to bear the motto IN GOD WE TRUST, and the first struck at a U.S. branch mint. Definitely gem quality!

Breen-7432. S mintmark first punched to high in the die, partly effaced, then relocated in a lower position.

Mintage: 60,030 (includes 30 assay coins). During September and October 1916, 32,896 pieces, including the 30 assay coins, were melted at the mint.

Net distribution: 27,134.

Official Sale Price: $1.00.

Designer: Obverse by Charles Barber, reverse by George Morgan, though some suspect that Barber may have had a hand in the reverse design as well.

Each of the lots from 888 through 892 will be sold on a provisional basis. After Lot 902 is sold provisionally, the total for lots 888 through 892 will be computed, 5% will be added to the total, and this will constitute the opening bid for Lot 903. If the opening bid is met or exceeded, the provisional awards for lots 898 through 892 will be canceled. If it is not met or exceeded, then the lots will be sold at the provisional award prices.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Gem Uncirculated 1915-S Panama-Pacific $1

(2x photo)

889 **1915-S Panama-Pacific Exposition gold dollar. MS-65 (PCGS).** Intense lustre on rich honey gold surfaces. Splashes of pale blue, rose, and deep orange glow brightly in the recessed areas. Undeniably gem overall, with physical attributes and aesthetic appeal that easily measure up to the assigned grade. It has been said by many collectors that the Panama Canal worker depicted on the obverse resembles a baseball player, no doubt in reference to the cap the worker wears. The twin dolphins on the reverse represent the meeting of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Mintage: 25,034 (includes 34 assay coins). On October 30, 1916, 10,034 were melted, a figure that includes the 34 assay coins.

Net Distribution: 15,000.

Official Sale Price: $2.00 (later, some were sold at $2.50).

Designer: Charles Keck.

Each of the lots from 888 through 892 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 888.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Frosty Gem 1915-S Panama-Pacific $2.50

(2x photo)

890 1915-S Panama-Pacific Exposition $2.50. MS-65 (PCGS). A satiny honey gold gem with strong lustre and a nuance of rich orange toning in the protected areas. A splendid specimen of our nation's second commemorative issue within the denomination (kudos go to the 1848 CAL quarter eagle as the first "official" U.S. commemorative quarter eagle). Liberty (here as Columbia), sidesaddle upon a hippocampus and caduceus in hand, represents progress exhibited by the Panama Canal. The reverse of this attractive design features a "defiant" eagle (earlier in U.S. coinage, a similar eagle motif made its appearance on certain pattern issues in the 19th century, and earlier still, the defiant eagle motif appeared on a rare and desirable California Small Denomination gold coin). Nicely struck and aesthetically appealing by all accounts.

Mintage: 10,017 (includes 17 assay coins). On October 16, 1916 3,268 examples, including the 17 assay coins, were melted at the San Francisco Mint.

Net Distribution: 6,749.

Official Sale Price: $4.00.

Designer: Obverse by Charles Barber, reverse by George Morgan.

Each of the lots from 888 through 892 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 888.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Impressively Beautiful 1915-S Panama-Pacific $50

Round Format

Gem Mint State

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

(2x photo)

891 MCMXV-S (1915-S) Panama-Pacific Exposition $50. Round. MS-65 (PCGS). Essentially flawless bright honey gold with intense lustre and equally strong eye appeal. An extraordinary coin for the grade—this issue is virtually always found with some sort of "cabinet friction" on the high points. Not so with the present coin, for try as you will, you will not find friction or marks of consequence for that matter. In short, this coin is superb in all respects! Arguably the most beautiful of all U.S. commemorative coinage designs; indeed, this writer (FVV) would vote it the most beautiful of all U.S. coin designs bar none. Athena (or Minerva), the patron goddess and namesake of ancient Athens, appears here in full war regalia, bust to left. Her plumed helm is a work of art in itself, while her shield bears the date in Roman numerals, MCMXV. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and FIFTY DOLLARS appears around her portrait, while IN GOD WE TRUST is just above her head. On the reverse, Athena's familiar owl, the ages old symbol for wisdom forms the central motif, perched upon a branch of Western pine and surrounded by pine cones, with E PLURIBUS UNUM in the field behind the owl. PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPOSITION

SAN FRANCISCO encircles the reverse motif. An extraordinary gem, a coin that has few peers and none better.

PCGS Population: 8; none finer.

Mintage: 1,510 (includes 10 assay coins). On October 30, 1916, 1,027 examples of the issue were melted, a figure that includes the 10 assay coins.

Net Distribution: 483.

Official Sale Price: $100.00 (which price included one each of the half dollar, dollar, and quarter eagle coins as well).

Designer: Robert I. Aitken.

Each of the lots from 888 through 892 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 888.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Impressive Gem 1915-S Panama-Pacific $50

Octagonal Format

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

(2x photo)

892 **MCMXV-S (1915-S) Panama-Pacific Exposition $50. Octagonal. MS-65 (PCGS).** Deep yellow gold with some faint orange highlights and intense cartwheel lustre on both sides. A splendid gem example of the only U.S. coin, commemorative or otherwise, struck in an octagonal format. The design of this beautiful coin is similar to the round format offered in the preceding lot, although here the devices are somewhat smaller, reduced in size to allow for the insertion of a dolphin at each of the eight angles on each side. The dolphins represent freedom of the seas and the ability to now pass from the Atlantic to the Pacific without the necessity of traveling either around the tip of South America (a long and tiresome journey) or overland across Panama. None graded finer by PCGS. Simply superb in all respects.

PCGS Population: 13; none finer.

Mintage: 1,509 (includes 9 assay coins). On October 30, 1916, 864 examples of the issue were melted, a figure that includes the nine assay coins.

Net Distribution: 645.

Official Sale Price: Official Sale Price: $100.00 (which price included one each of the half dollar, dollar, and quarter eagle coins as well).

Designer: Robert I. Aitken.

According to the official release information, the obverse depicts "the Goddess of Wisdom, Skill, Contemplation, Spinning, Weaving, and Agriculture and Horticulture." Dave Bowers noted in his *Encyclopedia* that Minerva was "obviously an all-around, ideal type of mythological person."

Each of the lots from 888 through 892 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 888.

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

Complete Five-Piece Panama-Pacific Commemorative Set

All Gem Mint State

Offered as a Single Lot

893 **1915-S Panama-Pacific Exposition five-piece set. All MS-65 (PCGS).** As individually described in lots 888 through 892 above.

At this point in the sale, the provisional awards for lots 888 and 892 will be totaled, 5% will be added, and that will constitute the opening bid for the current lot, Lot 893. If this bid is met or exceeded, the provisional awards will be cancelled and the coins will be owned by the successful bidder on the present lot. (Total: 5 pieces)

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

MODERN ISSUES

894 **Date run of American Eagle silver dollars, 1986 to 2001, all Proof-69 DCAM (PCGS):** ☆ 1986-S ☆ 1987-S ☆ 1988-S ☆ 1989-S ☆ 1990-S ☆ 1991-S ☆ 1992-S ☆ 1993-P ☆ 1994-P ☆ 1995-P ☆ 1996-P ☆ 1997-P ☆ 1998-P ☆ 1999-P ☆ 2000-P ☆ 2001-W. A splendid group, the early dates gently toned near the rims. An unbroken run of this popular series. (Total: 16 pieces)

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

895 **Date run of PCGS-certified Proof-69 DCAM American Eagle silver dollars, 1986 to 2001, plus two Buffalo dollars.** American Eagles: ☆ 1986-S ☆ 1987-S ☆ 1988-S ☆ 1989-S ☆ 1990-S ☆ 1991-S ☆ 1992-S ☆ 1993-P ☆ 1994-P ☆ 1995-P ☆ 1996-P ☆ 1997-P ☆ 1998-P ☆ 1999-P ☆ 2000-P ☆ 2001-W. Buffalo dollars: ☆ 2001-P Proof-69 DCAM ☆ 2001-D MS-69. A desirable group of near-flawless gems. (Total: 18 pieces)

From the Luther A. Breck Collection.

HAWAIIAN COIN

The Hawaii series is a small but interesting one, consisting of a cent struck in 1847 at a private mint in Massachusetts and four U.S. denominations (dime, quarter, half, and dollar) struck by the U.S. Mint at San Francisco in 1883. The survivorship of these coins is very small, and finding top quality representatives of *any* of the denominations is a significant challenge. A number of interesting tokens also circulated in the Hawaiian Islands; these are avidly pursued along with the 1847 and 1883 issues, as are some fantasy/pattern issues.

Choice Uncirculated 1883 Kingdom Hawaii $1

896 **1883 AKAHI DALA ($1). MS-64 (PCGS).** Intense lustre bursts forth from beneath an amazing amalgam of rich rose, gold, electric blue, and pale violet iridescence. Sharply struck and aesthetically appealing, and among the finest examples of this rare issue from the days of King Kalakaua.

PCGS Population: 22; 3 finer (MS-65 finest).

The 1883 coinage for the King of Hawaii was instigated by a friend of King Kalakaua, Claus Spreckles, who was born in Lamstedt, Germany in 1828, and immigrated to the United States in 1846. The Spreckles family eventually settled in San Francisco in 1856. Five years later, in 1863, Spreckles entered the sugar refining business, and eventually secured a monopoly on the importation and sale of refined sugar to the Pacific Coast of America. He owned large sugar cane plantations in the Hawaiian Islands, and eventually became a close friend and confidant of the King. Steamship lines and various other companies also fell under the umbrella of the Spreckles family, and a private bank bearing the family name in the Hawaiian Islands issued notes that are extremely rare and highly collectable today. In 1883, dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollars were struck for general circulation. The mintage of the dollar denomination was 500,000 pieces, but over the years some 453,652 were officially redeemed by banks in Hawaii, that figure amounts to nearly *91%* of the mintage!

PRIVATE AND TERRITORIAL ISSUES

Private and territorial coins have endured a renewed interest in recent years, with the recovery of the treasure of the *S.S. Central America* doing much to popularize the study of the Gold Rush and the coins that serve in the pioneer days of California. "Territorial" gold coins, of course, have their beginnings in the American south, where the gold dollar denomination was first developed by the immigrant goldsmith Christoph[er] Bechtler. In California, the production of gold coins by private concerns became a necessity for the fast-moving economy of that state to function, until the founding of the U.S. Assay Office (and then the San Francisco Mint) brought federal control to the emission of gold coins. Our offering of territorials includes such rarities as a glorious Mint State Norris, Gregg, and Norris $5, and a nicely pedigreed 1855 Wass, Molitor $10 from the *S.S. Central America*. The silver coins from that wreck follow, with gold ingots and a superb collection of California Small Denomination Gold coins also in the pages to come, make this a memorable event for enthusiasts in the field of Western numismatic Americana.

Rare and Historic C. Bechtler $5
"August 1, 1834"

(2x photo)

897 **(ca. 1834-1837) C. Bechtler $5. Kagin-19, Rarity-6+. 140 grains, 20 carats. MS-61 (NGC).** Deep yellow gold, a rich tone, with lovely ruddy rose toning and protected areas showing lustre

and reflectivity. Scattered tiny contact marks and faint hairlines, some areas of very shallow roughness, digs noted for identification over 1 and under 4 of 1834. Similar in color to most specimens encountered, from the Garrett coin to a piece in the March 1882 J.W. Scott sale described as "very red gold." The visual appeal is excellent, sharp and natural in appearance. This rare variety, issued for but a brief period if its rarity is any indication, makes reference to the Mint Act of 1834 which was passed in June of that year. The original draft of that important piece of legislation, which set new values for gold coins to prevent their export and eventual melting, included the suggestion that "new tenor" gold coins include the phrase "August 1, 1834" as a part of their designs. While the new gold coins simply included the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM in the end to make the change easily discernible, Bechtler apparently followed the legislation closely and included the recommended language in early 1834 on his readily-accepted gold coinage. An historic and rare issue by the pioneer who struck the first gold dollar in America, here presented in near unsurpassable quality.

Lustrous A. Bechtler Gold Dollar

(2x photo)

898 Undated (ca. 1842-1850) A. Bechtler $1. Kagin-24, Rarity-3. 27 grains, 21 carats. MS-61 (NGC). Pale yellow gold with lively lustre, especially in protected areas of the design. Surfaces show typical myriad tiny contact marks and abrasions, light wrinkle in planchet as often seen on these diminutive issues, no heavy dents or rim problems. A delightful specimen of this Southern private gold issue of the second generation of the Bechtler family.

Choice Norris, Gregg, and Norris $5

Prooflike Mint State

(2x photo)

899 1849 Norris, Gregg, and Norris $5. Kagin-2, Rarity-5. Plain edge. MS-62 (NGC). Pale yellow gold with bright lustre on reflective fields. Very well struck for the issue, which is rarely located in Mint State in any case, with only tiny scattered marks in the fields preventing a higher grade. The obverse is quite free of marks of consequence. A diagonal nick over RA of FRANCISCO and a cluster of tiny digs near the first N of N,G & N are noted for future identification of this specimen. As Dan Owens noted in his pioneering study *California Coiners and Assayers*, "The firm of Norris, Gregg, & Norris is believed to have been the first quantity issuer of gold coins in California." The pieces first received published notice in the San Francisco area on May 31, 1849 and soon received wide acceptance. For those interested in the history of the Gold Rush, a specimen of this issue is a necessary addition to a well-formed cabinet.

NGC Census: 2; 2 finer (MS-63).

Attractive 1851 Humbert $50 Slug

900 1851 Augustus Humbert $50. 887 THOUS, reeded edge. Kagin-6, Rarity-4. EF-40, sharpness of AU-50, lightly cleaned. Attractive medium yellow gold with blushes of deep rose around legends. Excellent eye appeal, the cleaning manifests only as subtle hairlines on the obverse which give a slight brightness to the fields but otherwise blend in and avoid serious notice. Minor rim bruise at the corner near T of HUMBERT and a smaller one at last A of CALIFORNIA. Typical light field digs, reverse rims show only minor abrasions. A very collectible and attractive example of this most popular Gold Rush issue, the spiritual predecessor of the United States Assay Office of Gold issues of 1852 and 1853. Worthy of a strong bid in today's market.

Very Rare 1855 Wass Molitor $10
Discovered Aboard the *S.S. Central America*

(2x photo)

901 1855 Wass, Molitor, & Co. $10. Kagin-6, Rarity-7. AU-50 (NGC). Even light yellow gold with abundant remaining lustre and excellent eye appeal for this crudely struck issue. The surfaces show manifold scattered contact marks, some shallow peripheral roughness, with digs on the lower jaw and neck noted. A very rare issue, far more elusive than the $5 and $10 issues of 1852, struck after a two-year lull in the minting operations of Wass, Molitor that ended by popular demand. In March, 1855, many of the merchants of San Francisco grew frustrated at the unsteady supply of gold coins from the San Francisco Mint, and Wass, Molitor, & Co. hastened to resume production. They added $20 and $50 coins to their repertoire in 1855, while continuing the $10 denomination as seen here. According to the *Alta California* of May 1, 1855, the $10 pieces were the first struck that year "and twenties and fifties followed." This example has perhaps the most fascinating pedigree of any Wass, Molitor coin: the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*. It clearly saw circulation before boarding that ship but remains lovely even after a long period in the depths. Any cabinet of territorial gold coins would be enriched with the addition of this classic rarity.

From Sotheby's sale of "Treasures from the S.S. Central America," December 1999, Lot 99. This sale, the first to include pieces from the wreck, consisted of the insurer's stake of the recovered bounty.

Fascinating Clark, Gruber $20 Pattern

902 1860 Clark, Gruber & Co. pattern $20. Copper. Kagin-4A, Rarity-5. AU Details, corroded (NCS). Medium brown with finely granular obverse fields and shallow periphery roughness on the obverse, more moderate even granularity on the reverse. An attractive specimen despite the imperfect surfaces, very sharp with bold detail and no major flaws. A rare and interesting issue, showing a textured equilateral triangle as a stylized Pikes Peak, an even less accurate form than the manure pile representation that was actually used on the gold $20 and $10 issues. This example would make an excellent addition to a cabinet that included a specimen of the very popular issues of the Denver private mint.

SILVER COINS FROM THE S.S. CENTRAL AMERICA

Shipwrecks have long captivated the imaginations of people everywhere, perhaps because of the heady contrast between the turmoil inherent in a violent storm and the treasure that awaits discovery under calm seas. Numismatists, whose appreciation of history and treasure is beyond that of the general public, have a special attraction to those coins that come from famous wrecks – particularly the coins that glitter instantly upon their reintroduction to the surface after years in the depths.

The 21 coins that follow from the famous wreck of the *S.S. Central America*, the "Ship of Gold," do not glitter. But, as a further study in contrast, this is part of their attraction. Thousands of bright gold coins, mostly brand new and looking much like the day they went aboard the *S.S. Sonora* in San Francisco on August 20, 1857, were recovered from the wreckage of the *Central America*, along with hundreds of gold ingots that were equally precious and beautiful. But only the small number of U.S. silver coins that follow were among that golden treasure, recently discovered among uncleaned artifacts, carefully curated to remove encrustation, and encapsulated by PCGS with the distinctive gold label noting them as treasure from the *S.S. Central America*. These pieces were not antiseptic cargo consigned by a company, instead, these low value and mostly circulated pieces were pocket change, coins that went onto the ship in pockets and satchels rather than strongboxes. A small number of (mostly uncleaned) silver coins were among pieces sold by Christie's in December 2000 (and catalogued by members of our staff), but no others have been distributed through public or private channels and no more are expected to be uncovered.

The silver pieces all show varying signs of saltwater corrosion, a fact of life that collectors of shipwreck coins have learned to accept. All the pieces have been lightly cleaned to remove encrustation, but not brightly buffed to a shine like many of the Florida shipwreck coins on the market generally. We have endeavored to carefully describe their state of preservation for potential bidders, but all are of above average eye appeal for recovered silver pieces and show plentiful detail.

We are pleased to have been selected by the California Gold Marketing Group to offer this group of American silver coins from the richest shipwreck in history.

903 **1842 dime from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Light silver gray with fairly even corrosion, moderate to heavy, but light enough that all salient details including a bold date remain. Fairly sharp, some raised scale at reverse periphery. One of only two dimes recovered, a coin that no doubt had an exciting journey from Philadelphia to California to the murky depths off the Carolinas.

Very Sharp 1853 Dime
From the *Central America*

904 **1853 With Arrows dime from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Light silver gray with extremely bold detail, probably AU or finer when lost. The corrosion is very fine, allowing for clear devices and legends, some dark splashes across reverse, patches of scale at stars 1-2 and star 8. Dimes and other small change were very scarce in Gold Rush-era California, a fact to which the tiny proportion of the *S.S. Central* America treasure that was composed of such pieces further attests. The sharper of the two dimes recovered and a splendid association piece that deserves strong bidding action.

905 **184- quarter from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Philadelphia Mint, full date not discernible. Mottled silver gray with dark peripheries and significant raised scale. The reverse is still bold, especially at center, obverse more corroded though the seated figure and 184 of the date is plain. Not a beautiful coin, but perhaps no more historic item is available anywhere in numismatics.

906 **1847 quarter from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Pale silver gray with some dark toning at base of reverse. While clearly circulated, this piece has survived salt water corrosion remarkably well with all designs but the head of the eagle present and bold. Perhaps VF or so in terms of wear, happily far more eye appealing than most shipwreck coins in general and *S.S. Central America* silver pieces specifically. A future collection highlight.

907 **185- quarter from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Mint and full date not discernible. Pale silver gray with some darker areas. Fairly heavily corroded, reverse sharper than obverse, crescent outline of coin on obverse where two pieces lay in contact on the ocean floor, 185 of date visible but rough, mintmark area corroded away, most reverse legends plain. A vital artifact from the most famous American wreck of all time that should be affordable for most collectors.

Superbly Preserved 1853 25¢

908 **1853 Arrows and Rays quarter from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** A bold and well-preserved specimen with some remaining lustre on the reverse! Light silver gray with shallow patches of roughness on the obverse, the reverse shows only peripheral evidence of saltwater corrosion while the centers show tan and black toning **and traces of natural lustre in the recesses**. AU or so in terms of sharpness, one of the most attractive of the recovered silver coins. A real prize.

909 **1854 Arrows quarter from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Even silver gray with some tan toning on the high points. A well-protected specimen that shows nearly no evidence of corrosion, save for a crescent at the left reverse periphery that reveals that

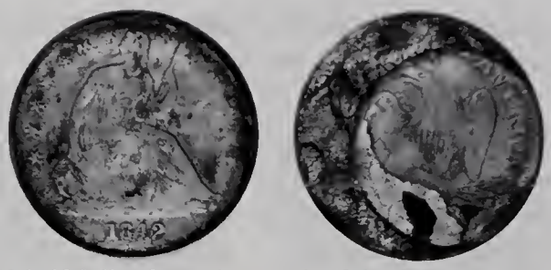
this coin was largely protected by another abutting coin of the same or similar size. About Fine in terms of wear, but fully eye appealing for those who find the saltwater surfaces of most silver coins objectionable. Another attractive treasure coin that deserves strong support.

1856-S Quarter from the *Central America*

910 **1856-S quarter from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Mottled light silver gray with some tan highlights. Raised silver oxide corrosion at top of reverse and eagle's shoulder, raised corrosion above Liberty's head, otherwise lightly rough but well-detailed. A coin that left San Francisco for the first time within a year of its manufacture, never to return. The date and large S mintmark are both very bold, central reverse very sharp and clearly protected by another coin with a broad crescent outline noted in left reverse legend. From the position and shape of the mintmark, this appears to be the scarce overmintmark variety, though the undermintmark is not plain. One of only two San Francisco Mint quarters recovered, both from the fairly substantial issue of 1856, the last of over a quarter million pieces for nearly 20 years thereafter. As a San Francisco issue, this piece is a special association piece for collectors of Western Americana.

The Other S-Mint 25¢
From the *Central America*

911 **1856-S quarter from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Even light silver gray with excellent detail and sharpness, lightly affected by corrosion except for raised dark scale noted atop the reverse and a more significant patch of encrustation at the base of the reverse, neither of which interrupt detail. The variety appears to be the same as the other 1856-S quarter recovered, the mintmark especially bold and showing the position and weak lower curve distinctive of the Large S over Small S variety. San Francisco silver pieces from the *Central America* are a special and rare breed – only five were recovered, two of them quarters. Such a distinction will not be lost on the successful bidder on this lot.



912 **1842 half dollar from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Medium date. Obverse light silver gray with some dark toning at the periphery, reverse more mottled with raised silver oxide corrosion in a neat quarter-moon around the crescent impression of a once-abutting quarter dollar. The obverse was well-protected at the bottom of the Atlantic with VG or better detail and a bare minimum of corrosion, the reverse was exposed where it was not partially protected by another coin and heavily corroded at left side, the large right portion of the reverse not substantially affected. The mintmark area was not exposed and lacks a mark. The oldest silver coin from the wreck (along with the 1842 dime, above) and a well-preserved one at that.

913 **1843 half dollar from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Light silver gray with mottled splashes of dark toning on moderately to heavily corroded surfaces. The date is clear, the mintmark area is uncorroded but empty. Raised silver oxide is present over much of both sides, leaving a coin that is more interesting than pretty. A most desirable artifact, still, and less expensive than the ingots which in real terms are dozens of times more common with this unique provenance.

Nice 1847-O 50¢ from the *Central America*

914 **1847-O half dollar from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Even pale silver gray with some golden gray silver oxide corrosion at the very top and bottom edge of the obverse. The obverse is finely corroded so as to leave behind superb sharp detail, including full LIBERTY and date, while the reverse was clearly protected from saltwater and shows nearly no evidence of corrosion but for a few splashes of golden color. A lovely coin that endured an interesting overland (or, more probably, oversea) trip from Gulf port to the Bay.

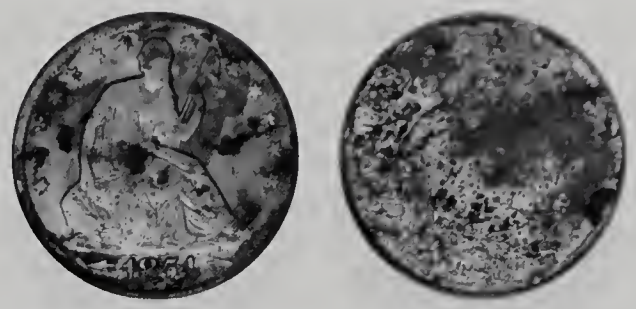
Important 1848 Half Dollar
Gold Rush Date, *Central America* Pedigree

915 **1848 half dollar from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Light silver gray with excellent eye appeal. Finely granular but not heavily corroded, a thin ring of silver oxide corrosion at extreme periphery. About VG in terms of wear, a coin that more than did its time in the halls of commerce, struck the year that "Eureka!" was first cried at Sutter's Mill. In only nine years the piece became worn, perhaps in the coin-poor economy of Gold Rush-era California, before disappearing into the time capsule that was the *S.S. Central America*. A conversation starter and a highlight in its next cabinet.

916 **1849-O half dollar from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Splashes of tan and brown toning over light gray surfaces on the obverse, reverse shows light tan speckling. Moderately but finely corroded, most detail preserved and plain, clear date and mintmark. Another coin introduced into a Caribbean and southern economy only to end up in the new western marketplace that was only a twinkle at its time of mintage.

Very Sharp 1853 Half from the *Central America*

917 **1853 Arrows and Rays half dollar from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Even pale silver gray with extremely bold detail and barely any evidence of corrosion aside from microscopically granular surfaces on both sides. A small patch of raised corrosion affects nothing at the top of the obverse. Perhaps EF in terms of wear, but one of the more attractive silver pieces from the wreck. A dedicated bidder could form a set of 1853 Arrows coins from the *Central America*, all of which for some reason were well-protected from the rigors of saltwater corrosion.



918 **1854 Arrows half dollar from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Nice silver gray with some splashes of darker toning on the obverse, the reverse a mottled mix of gray and tan. The obverse was protected from corrosion and remains sharp and attractive, Fine or better in terms of wear, the reverse was heavily affected by saltwater corrosion and shows significant raised silver oxide that obscures all but extreme central details, where the shield is nice and sharp. A prime opportunity to purchase a silver piece with an unbeatable pedigree.

Extremely Sharp 1857-S 50¢

919 **1857-S half dollar from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Even medium gray with splashes of darker toning on the obverse, pale gray with areas of dark tan on the reverse. Clearly Mint State at the time it left San Francisco, with some apparent obverse frost, though some raised corrosion is noted on both sides, especially the reverse. The mintmark area is beneath the silver oxide corrosion but the mark remains discernible – the mintmark was missed at the time of encapsulation, as the label reads simply "1857." Of course, it would have been nearly impossible for a Philadelphia product to reach San Francisco by the time the *Sonora* left on August 20 of that year. Among silver coins, only half dollars were recovered with the magic 1857-S date – and those four pieces are among the most desirable pieces in this offering.

Another 1857-S 50¢

920 **1857-S half dollar from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Dark gray and tan and some darker splashes on the reverse. The obverse is quite heavily corroded, with a touch of black scale left of 12:00, though the date is unmistakable. The reverse shows some raised corrosion at center but other areas show apparent lustre on well-protected and nicely detailed surfaces. The special nature of this date does not need to be rehashed, but bidders should be prepared to assert their strong desire for ownership.

Third 1857-S 50¢

921 **1857-S half dollar from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Pale silver gray with an area of deeper slate gray on the reverse. The reverse was nicely preserved and mostly shows fine granularity but good sharp details. The obverse is slightly more affected but the date and design remain plain. Another coin with the "magic date" that despite its relative rarity will likely realize far less than any of the thousands of 1857-S double eagles recovered.

A Final 1857-S 50¢

922 **1857-S half dollar from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** Deep gray with a large area of black toning at central obverse and some dark toning in areas of the reverse. The reverse is again the sharper side, with light even corrosion and only small areas of raised silver oxide. The obverse is fairly well preserved with most details present, particularly so at center. A final chance to purchase a silver coin with the historic 1857-S date, an important opportunity since we do not expect that these pieces, once purchased by collectors, will be offered publicly for many years, if ever.

Important J.L. Polhemus Counterstamp 50¢

1847-O

From the *S.S. Central America*

(2x photo)

923 **1847-O half dollar from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.** J. L. Polhemus countermark. Pale silver gray with even, moderate corrosion that allows most of the details to remain bold. Some minor dark deposits on the reverse, good eye appeal, every single character of the famous and important Polhemus countermark remains bold. The countermark is present on the obverse with an alignment directly opposite that of the coin – in other words, it's upside down. No raised corrosion is present, and both sides are better preserved than many of the coins in this unique offering.

Counterstamped half dollars bearing the J.L. Polhemus mark, in real terms, are not terribly scarce – they actually seem to be the medium of choice for his coin-based advertising. Of course, Polhemus countermarked whatever came through his till, from dimes and quarters to a 1776 Mexican 1 real coin and a thaler from Saxony. The most famous pieces bearing his mark are two double eagles – both San Francisco Mint products. An 1857-S $20 was brought to market over a decade ago, and for many years held the record for a counterstamped coin sold at auction (unless one counts the Dexter 1804 dollar, which bore a tiny D mark in a cloud, probably placed by a later owner named Dunham). The other J.L. Polhemus mark on a $20 was found aboard the *S.S. Central America*, an 1855-S coin included in the December 2000 Christie's sale that the present cataloguer (JK) had the privilege to describe for that auction. This half dollar is the only other Polhemus countermark found aboard the Ship of Gold.

Polhemus advertised his place of business, a drugstore, with a large mortar and pestle posted out front which was identical to the one seen on the second line of his five-line prepared stamp. He arrived in Sacramento in 1849 and opened his pharmacy in 1850, bringing in customers with traditional and nontraditional advertising methods, in addition to promotions like all-night shopping. Only one other countermark appeared among the *S.S. Central America* treasure, a gold piece marked by dentist and assayer W.W. Light which was also sold in the 2000 Christie's sale. We do not expect any others to appear on the market in the future.

For those interested in pieces from Gold Rush-era California, and the merchant personalities of that period, the appeal of this coin is clear. Most collectors of countermarks revel in the fact that a counterstamped coin can be placed in a given location in a given period, but this piece can not only be placed in Sacramento between 1850 and 1857 but its whereabouts from then forward are also known. The sale of this coin at public auction is a mere punctuation mark in its unbroken history, a story which opens a new chapter once it finds a place in its first-ever numismatic cabinet.

INGOTS

Ingots are like a bag of coins in concentrate: a dense measure of value produced to transport precious metal in an easy and readily identifiable way. They are an inherently temporary form, unless meant for presentation, as typical ingots were merely produced to move an assayed quantity of precious metal from one place to another – then be turned into another form, be it coins or wrought products or what-have-you. Ingots, especially in the West, served a currency function, and could pass hand to hand several times at a certain value. The wreck of the *S.S. Central America* revolutionized our understanding of the importance of gold ingots in the West in the years following the Gold Rush, and other ingots, such as the rare ingots made by Felix Grundy Hoard and the Star Mining Company, have become more interesting as a result. In modern times, the ingots made by the U.S. Assay Office of New York were once all but unknown, but are now collectible to a new kind of collectors: those specializing in gold ingots.

Kellogg and Humbert Gold Ingot

From the *S.S. Central America*

39.74 Ounces, .887 Fine

924 **(ca. 1857) Kellogg and Humbert ingot from the *S.S. Central America*. San Francisco, California. 39.74 ounces, serial number 803. Choice AU. .887 fine gold.** 98.9 mm x 44.5 mm x 16.9 mm. $728.66 value. Oriented vertically, first line: No. in prepared punch, 803 in individual number punches. Second line: Prepared 4 line framed punch reading KELLOGG / & / HUMBERT / ASSAYERS. Third line: 39.74 in individual punches, Oz. in prepared punch. Fourth line: 887 in individual punches, FINE in prepared punch. Fifth line: $728.66 in individual punches. Bottom (back) face: 803 in individual punches near top. Deep cooling depression on bottom (back) face, which faced up at the time of hardening. Two truncated corners, cut for assaying, at lower right of the front face and top right of the back face. Bright lustrous yellow gold with some rust-orange patches of toning, very attractive and without serious marks, some light pits left from bubbles releasing gas during cooling process. Kellogg and Humbert stamp bold and well impressed, corner of weakly impressed first strike at K of KELLOGG. A hefty and very desirable ingot from this well known assaying team, whose assayed fineness is identical to that of $50 coins produced by Humbert alone and by Humbert and Kellogg together as employees of the United States Assay Office of Gold after 1852. This example will be a prized conversation piece for its next owner, an historic artifact of the Gold Rush and the richest shipwreck in American history.

Pedigreed Felix G. Hoard Ingot

925 **(ca. 1867) Felix Grundy Hoard ingot. Fiddletown (i.e. Oleta), California. 9.43 ounces, serial number 2179. EF. .999 fine gold.** 51.7 mm x 32.9 mm x 9.8 mm. Oriented vertically, 23.8 mm diameter circular prepared punch at top reading F. G. HOARD ASSAYER in outer ring, AMADOR CO. CAL. in center. Below, first line: No. in prepared punch, 2179 in individual punches. Second line: 9.43 in larger individual punches, OZS. in prepared punch. Third line: 999 in individual punches, THOUS. FINE in two-line prepared punch. USM from single punch on bottom (back) face, slightly doubled punch. This abbreviation, in the past, has been said to stand for United States Mint "to indicate that the F.G. Hoard bar was accepted there" according to Dave Bowers' *American Coin Treasures and Hoards*. Medium yellow gold, good lustre within recessed circular HOARD ASSAYER punch and other prepared punches, area of roughness below circular punch, even texture of tiny digs and marks. Lower right corner on bottom (back) face truncated as if for assay, striated texture on that truncated corner consistent with a cut after pour instead of a dent and closely resembles those found on *Central America* ingots. One of only 26 recorded ingots from this Amador County assayer, a valuable and well-pedigreed artifact from California a decade and a half after the height of the Gold Rush.

Felix Grundy Hoard is known primarily by a small group of gold ingots – all more or less this size and fineness– first discovered in the late 1960s. As noted in Dave Bowers' *American Coin Treasures and Hoards*, Hoard (that was his last name) was listed as an assayer in 1867 in the *Pacific Coast Business Directory* and in a later edition as a stock and money broker, an occupation that involved buying and selling paper money and securities and perhaps involved trading foreign coins and bullion.

First offered in Glendining's sale of November 1969, Lot 599. Purchased by Superior Galleries, who obtained the import license for this bar. Next offered in Bowers and Ruddy's sale of the Henry Clifford Collection, March 1982, Lot 24. Most recently offered in Stack's Americana sale of January 2000, Lot 779. Illustrated in the February 1970 issue of Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine, *page 165.*

Rare 1880 Star Mining Company Ingot

926 **1880 Star Mining Company ingot. Rose Creek, Sonora, California. 7.27 ounces, serial number 042. EF.** .678 fine gold, .288 fine silver. 51.3 mm x 27.5 mm x 12.4 mm. First line: 7.27 in individual punches, OZ and NO in prepared punches, 042 in individual punches. Second line: CAL in prepared punch, [large 5 pointed star punch] with MINING / CO in single prepared punch below, 1880 in individual punches. Third line: G 678 in individual punches, FINE in prepared punch, S 288 in individual punches, partial FINE punch again showing only FI. Pale yellow gold, commensurate with the fineness, corners show light wear, tiny digs give a uniform pebbly texture to all faces. A 3 mm hole has been neatly drilled in modern times near the left end of the bottom face, seemingly to determine whether or not this piece was solid gold. The punches are evenly and boldly impressed for the most part, CAL a trifle weak at L, E of FINE interrupted by S punch. An attractive and very desirable ingot, one of 28 recorded specimens from this Tuolumne County mining operation.

Dave Bowers' *American Coin Treasures and Hoards* gives the most detailed information on the Star Mining Company and the discovery of the ingots made by this firm. According to that text, "John J. Ford, Jr. recalled that 52 or more ingots relating to the Star Mining Company were found with the aid of a metal detector" circa 1968. Some were offered in a 1969 Glendining's sale (which also included the Felix Grundy Hoard ingot offered previously); this piece and five like it, including one later offered in the Clifford Collection sale, entered the marketplace in the April 1980 NASCA sale. The Star Mining Company was in business from the 1870s until 1895, and their ingots are known to bear 1877 and 1880 dates. Most known pieces are of similar size to this one. Incidentally, the number 043 bar is also known and apparently came from the same assay – it too is of .678 gold and .288 silver fineness. This bar is the lowest numbered Star Mining Company ingot known.

From NASCA's sale of April 1980, Lot 2434.

927 **(ca. 1950s) Nevada Silver Company ingot. Tonopah, Nevada. 5.11 ounces, $6.59 value. Choice AU.** .999 fine silver. 53.8 mm x 35.1 mm x 9.5 mm. Top (front) face shows die-sunk seal of the Nevada Silver Company with defiant eagle at center, first line be-

low reads 999 in individual punches and FINE in prepared punch, second line reads 5.11 in individual punches and OZS. in prepared punch, third line reads VAL. in prepared punch and $6.59 in individual punches. Bottom (back) face reads 999 FINE / SILVER near center with numbers in individual punches and words in prepared punches. A nifty little silver ingot, scarce and collectible, an artifact of the dying 20th century silver industry in central Nevada that was based in the town of Tonopah.

1968 New York Assay Office Ingot
Very Rare

928 1968 U.S. Assay Office, New York ingot. New York City. 25.04 ounces, serial number 48424. Choice AU. .9997 fine gold. 56.9 mm x 38.0 mm x 20.2 mm. Top (front) face shows die-sunk seal of the U.S. Assay Office at New York with internal 1968 date with FINE / 999.7 from two prepared punches below. Receipt number 48424 in individual punches on top side face denotes the precise assay of the gold that created this ingot, lot number R191 in individual punches on bottom side face denotes the source of the deposit, OZS in small prepared punch and 25.04 in individual punches on right side face gives the weight. A very rare ingot, one of only three 1968 USAONY ingots known to us and one of less than two dozen total USAONY ingots recorded. Produced from industrial and government deposits during the era when private gold ownership was prohibited, these ingots bore the same official government sanction as coins but were created for circulation only among banks, government agencies, foreign governments, and approved commercial entities. This piece is far larger than most known USAONY ingots; only two 28.7 ounce ingots from 1951 outweigh it. A substantial and precious numismatic item from an era in our history when gold was a commodity that required approval to own or transfer.

Notably, this ingot is not from the large July 2002 offering of USAONY ingots, nor is one of the individual ingots auctioned by Stack's in the last few years.

CALIFORNIA SMALL DENOMINATION GOLD

In sharp contrast to the large values represented by gold ingots in the West, the need for small change was treated in a different manner by goldsmiths and jewelers in 19th century California. The creation of small gold coins, struck in denomination of quarter dollar, half dollar, and dollar, was a unique innovation in this economy that revolved around gold (and little else) as currency. The following lots represent some of the finest California Small Denomination Gold on the market today – many are among the finest known of their variety or type, and many popular types such as the "Peacock" reverse and Washington Head are included. Catalogued by Frank Van Valen, our resident expert, with the most up-to-date research from the second edition of Walter Breen and Ron Gillio's *California Pioneer Fractional Gold*, the following pages will be a welcome chance for specialists to improve upon their holdings, or a fine opportunity for newcomers to "get their feet wet" with excellent quality examples. Many historic Period One types are offered in exceptional quality, and many rare varieties of the Period Two jeweler's issues are likewise in superlative grade. A mail-bid only section is present at the end of the catalogue and will further interest those fascinated by these tiny and desirable artifacts from California's growth period of the mid to late 19th century. (All California Small Denomination Gold photos are 2x)

929 1853 Octagonal 25¢. Breen Gillio-102. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-64 (PCGS). A high degree of lustre on deep honey gold surfaces. Rich violet iridescence makes it presence known on both sides. A pleasing example of one of the earliest of the California Small Denomination gold issues. In the second edition of *California Pioneer Fractional Gold* by Walter Breen and Ronald J. Gillio (2003), lead author Robert D. Leonard Jr. noted that Lot 23 of the M. Thomas & Sons auction sale of the J. W. Kline Collection, sold June 12, 1855, contained four examples of this variety. This information shows that not only were these coins in contemporary circulation, but were also avidly collected by those few collectors on the scene in the mid-1800s.

PCGS Population: 14; 1 finer (MS-65).

Maker: Frontier, Deviercy & Co., 1853-64, successors to Joseph Bros. (for minting business only).

Obverse: Large, crude head of Liberty to left, four six-pointed stars around, first star close in under Liberty's jaw line.

Reverse: Beaded circle motif with fraction, denomination, and date within. Fraction at top, horizontal bar 1 at left end of bar, 4 more centered. DOLLAR in semicircle beneath denomination, D without serifs, first L faint, A filled, R distant. Date numerals successively lower from left to right, 1 8 5 nicely spaced. 3 distant, 8 faint, 5 tilted left, 3 tilted right.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Die State III: Struck from rusted dies. A "mouse" patch of rust at top of Liberty's portrait, another patch of rust at junction of her chin and neck.

Choice Mint State BG-204
Octagonal Quarter, Rarity-5

930 **Undated (1853) Octagonal 25¢. BG-204. Liberty Head. Rarity-5. MS-63 (PCGS)** Highly lustrous deep honey gold with vibrant orange highlights. A satiny specimen, one that is decidedly choice for the assigned grade. One example of this variety was retrieved from the *S.S. Winfield Scott,* which sank off the coast of California on December 1, 1853.

PCGS Population: 7; 1 finer (MS-64).

Maker: Joseph Bros. 1852-53.

Obverse: Small federal style head of Liberty to left, 12 six-pointed stars around. The star punch had a broken point, as illustrated on this variety; some of the stars appear to have just four points. First star attached to point of Liberty's bust, die crack from rim to seventh star to top of Liberty's head (this obverse die a later state of BG-203).

Reverse: Open-topped wreath, six triple leaves to left, six to right, six-pointed star at top of wreath, bow at bottom, a solitary berry to left and again to right of bow. Fraction and denomination within wreath, diagonal fraction bar, 1 in fraction directly below star, and apparently from an I punch, 4 in fraction with high top and no serif. Denomination has DOLL., the only Period I issue with this spelling. D O L widely spaced, O broadly repunched, L L close, second L considerably lower.

Gem Uncirculated (1853) Quarter Dollar
BG-222, Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

931 **Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-222. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-65 (PCGS)** Deep yellow gold with distinctive olive highlights. Somewhat prooflike. An attractive coin, one that is worthy of the assigned grade. A readily available variety that is often selected for inclusion in California Small Denomination gold coin type sets. Two examples of this variety were recovered from the 1853 wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott.*

PCGS Population: 11; none finer.

Maker: Antoine Louis Nouizillet, 1852-58.

Obverse: Federal style head of Liberty to left, 12 six-pointed stars around, first star opposite tip of Liberty's bust, star eight opposite upper curl in Liberty's hair bun.

Reverse: Open topped wreath, six pairs of triple leaves to left, six pairs to right, five pairs of berries to left, five pairs to right. Fraction, denomination, and six-pointed star within wreath. Horizontal fraction bar tapered at left end, 1 in fraction appears as I, 4 in fraction with large left foot, no right foot. DOLLAR closely spaced, O slightly high, first L slightly higher than second L, L L A joined at base, right foot of A missing, pointed right foot to R. Six-pointed star between denomination and angular bow.

Edge: Reeded.

Early Die State II: Faint crack now appears from wreath tip to wreath tip, crossing the I in the fraction.

932 **1856 Round 25¢. BG-230. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. MS-64 (PCGS)** A bright and lustrous honey gold prooflike specimen, with frosty motifs and mirrored fields. Splashes of attractive rose iridescence enhance the overall appeal of this lovely coin.

PCGS Population: 14; 3 finer (MS-65 finest).

Maker: Antoine Louis Nouizillet, 1852-58.

Obverse: Federal style head of Liberty to left, 12 six-pointed stars around. Point of bust points to extreme right side of first star, star eight opposite upper hair bun, Liberty's tresses end in three distinct points.

Reverse: Open topped wreath, five triple leaves to left, six triple leaves to right. Five pairs of berries per stem, though some of these later fade in various die states. Fraction, denomination, and date within wreath. Fraction high, fraction bar thin and short, upper serif of 1 long, plain crossbar on 4. DOLLAR nicely spaced, D O L slightly but progressively higher from left to right, L A R even at their bases. Date centered above crude, angular bow, all numerals nicely spaced, 1 from the same punch as used in the fraction, 8 faint, 5 bold and slightly low, 6 thin and slightly high.

Edge: Plain.

Die State I: Perfect dies.

Famous 1853-FD, Octagonal 50¢
Peacock Reverse

933 **1853-FD Octagonal 50¢. BG-302. Liberty Head. Peacock Reverse. Rarity-4-. MS-64 (PCGS).** Deep prooflike yellow gold with splashes of bright sky blue iridescence on the devices and legends. The famous "Peacock" reverse, a name given long ago by Art Kagin. The rays behind the eagle are no doubt an effort to imitate federal quarters and half dollars with arrows at date and rays on the reverse, a few of which made it to San Francisco by late 1853, with the rays feature then becoming part of the design of this issue. Definitely one of the "Peacock" varieties; of late, PCGS has a penchant for calling any California Small Denomination gold piece with an eagle reverse a "Peacock." Somewhat prooflike and extremely attractive for the grade.

PCGS Population: 11; 2 finer (MS-65 finest).

Maker: Frontier, Deviercy & Co., 1853-64.

Obverse: Broad head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, date below bust, F. D. behind bust in field. Point of Liberty's bust points to first star, tip of coronet points to star seven. 1 in date heavy and thick, 8 5 close and smaller than the 1 and 3, the 3 broadly Repunched, resembling an 8.

Reverse: CALIFORNIA GOLD. arches above the central eagle motif, with 50. CENTS. curving below. Central eagle perched on a single arrow, its head turned left and wings spread. A radiant spray appears behind the eagle's head and shoulders, resembling a Peacock's tail, hence the colorful nickname of this popular variety.

Edge: Reeded.

Die State I: Perfect dies. Clear repunching on 50 T in denomination, which gradually fades from die use; here the repunching is faintly noticeable.

A Second 1853-FD Peacock Reverse 50¢

934 **1853-FD Octagonal 50¢. BG-302. Liberty Head. Peacock Reverse. Rarity-4-. MS-63 (PCGS).** Deep rich honey gold with splashes of lively orange toning. Somewhat prooflike in appearance. Another attractive example of one of the most popular issues in the entire series.

PCGS Population: 23; 13 finer (MS-65 finest).
Maker: Frontier, Deviercy & Co., 1853-64.
Obverse: Die descriptions as in the preceding lot.
Reverse: Die descriptions as in the preceding lot.
Edge: As in the preceding lot.
Die State I: Die descriptions as in the preceding lot.

935 **1854 Octagonal 50¢. BG-305. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-64 (PCGS).** A prooflike specimen with lightly frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields. Lustrous yellow gold with pale rose highlights. One of the varieties with a low karat content as its core, then gold plated with higher karat content. Among the finest examples certified by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 7; 1 finer (MS-66).
Maker: Frontier, Deviercy & Co., 1853-64.
Obverse: Large federal style head of Liberty to left, nine six-pointed stars around, first four stars between tip of bust and tip of coronet, star seven nearly touches upper hair bun. Date below bust, 1 and 8 evenly spaced, 8 5 very close, 5 tilted heavily left, 4 large and tilted heavily right.
Reverse: Beaded circle at the center, CALIFORNIA. GOLD. around, two six-pointed stars below the circle. Fraction and denomination within circle, no fraction bar in fraction. DOLLAR below fraction, D O L evenly spaced, L L very close, second L leans left and shows repunching at the top, L A connected at the base, A R close.
Edge: Crudely reeded.
Die State II: Both dies brilliantly polished to remove clash marks, faint traces of which remain on both sides.

936 **1856-N Octagonal 50¢. BG-311. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-63 (PCGS).** Rich shades of violet and pale blue on deep orange-gold surfaces. Somewhat prooflike in appearance, and an attractive coin to behold. Among the finest examples of the variety certified by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 21; 2 (MS-64 finest).
Maker: Antoine Louis Nouizillet, 1852-58.
Obverse: Large head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, several stars attached to the dentils.
Reverse: HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA around an open topped wreath, N below the wreath, date within. Wreath with five triple leaves and four pairs of berries per side. L in CALIFORNIA very low in relation to the other letters. Date central in wreath, nicely spaced and on the same horizontal plain, 5 6 moderately closer to each other than the spacing of the other numerals.
Edge: Widely reeded, sometimes plain.
Die State I: Perfect dies.

Choice Uncirculated 1852 Round 50¢

BG-401, Probable First Small Denomination California Gold Issue

937 **1852 Round 50¢. BG-401. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Rich honey gold with delightful orange iridescence. Frosty and satiny, with a strong strike and a generous amount of eye appeal. This variety above all others is suspected of being the first of the California Small Denomination gold issues, probably the style mentioned in the June 29, 1852 issue of the New Orleans *Daily Picayune* (see note below). Definitely choice for the grade, and worthy of inclusion in any collection.

PCGS Population: 20; 7 finer (MS-65 finest).
Maker: Joseph Bros., 1852-53.
Obverse: Small federal style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around.
Reverse: HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD. around an open topped wreath, date at center of wreath, angular bow beneath. Four sets of triple leaves on each side of wreath, a single berry on each side of the bow plus four pairs of berries and a single berry at the tip of each sprig on each side. Date numeral large and well formed, nicely spaced and aesthetically pleasing.

The Tuesday evening, June 29, 1852 edition of the New Orleans *Daily Picayune* noted "We were shown this morning a gold half-dollar. California money, which is so much like the United States gold dollar piece, that the best judges would be completely deceived at a first glance. The half-dollar piece is lighter in color and somewhat smaller in diameter than the dollar. They are of a private issue and have stamped on them 'HALF DOLLAR CALIFORNIA GOLD 1852.'" In the newest edition of the *California Pioneer Fractional Gold,* lead author Bob Leonard surmises "the coin shown to the *Picayune's* editor must have left San Francisco about the first of June, probably on the steamer *Tennessee,* or the *Unicorn* or *Independence.* This story allows the introduction of Small California gold to be dated to the spring of 1852, probably the later part of May." While the exact type seen on June 29 cannot be determined with certainty, it is thought that either BG-401 or BG-426 are the most logical issues to wear the mantel of "first" California Small Denomination gold issue. Interestingly enough, Walter Breen surmised that BG-427 could very well wear this honor. Of course, we will never know for certain but Leonard's and Breen's research have certainly narrowed the task down to just a few distinct possibilities.
Edge: Reeded.

938 **1853-GG Round 50¢. BG-414. Liberty Head. Rarity-5-. MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous deep olive-gold with splashes of rose and orange in the recessed areas. A pleasing example of the issue, here from a very late state of the die; polishing has eliminated the row of

beads along the top edge of the coronet, these beads sometimes called "pearls," and this late state sometimes called the "no pearls" variety. A pleasing coin for the grade, and among the finest certified by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 7; 1 finer (MS-63).

Maker: Gaime, Guillemot & Co., 1852-54 (by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

Obverse: Large federal style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, stars consisting of six "tear drop lines" that join at the center, G.G. maker's mark below truncation, second G first punched into die upside-down, then corrected.

Reverse: Wide open wreath at center, CALIFORNIA GOLD. Arcs above, date below wreath. Fraction and denomination within wreath, bow of wreath consists of three heart-shaped lines, two within the wreath, the third inverted below; the third loop separates the 8 and 5 in the date. Fraction bar horizontal, 1 of fraction slightly left of center, 2 of fraction slightly right of center. DOLLAR unevenly spaced, D O nearly touch, O low, and visibly repunched to the right, O L more widely spaced, L L A joined at base, R slightly low with its right foot attached to leaf in wreath.

Edge: Reeded.

Die State I: Die crack from upper left wreath end across fraction bar and from there down to the R in DOLLAR.

939 **1853-D Round 50¢. BG-421. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS).** Deep and rich yellow gold with distinctive olive highlights and an occasional nuance of orange. Somewhat prooflike, especially so on the reverse. A splendid coin for the grade, one that would be a suitable addition to any California Small Denomination gold type collection.

PCGS Population: 17; 10 (MS-63 finest).

Maker: M. Deriberpie, 1852-54.

Obverse: Large federal style head of Liberty to left, 11 six-pointed stars around, one point on the star punch broken, D marker's mark below portrait, period within maker's mark.

Reverse: CALIFORNIA GOLD HALF D. around a small open top wreath, date within wreath. Letters in legend crude, poorly formed, and poorly spaced as well, the O punch broken at the top. Left stem of wreath with five triple leaves, five pairs of berries and a single berry at the end of the stem; the berry on the outside of the wreath below the N in CALIFORNIA is doubled. On the right stem there are 12 berries in six pairs. Date at center of wreath, numerals bold and robust, nicely spaced and well formed.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Die State I: Perfect dies.

Choice Uncirculated 1853-D 50¢
BG-422, High Rarity-6

940 **1853-D Round 50¢. BG-422. Liberty Head. Rarity-6+. MS-63 (PCGS).** A satiny beauty with bright yellow gold centers that give way to deeper golden peripheries. Struck on a slightly wavy planchet, not an unusual occurrence for the variety. A rarity in all grades, especially so at the assigned grade; just seven examples are graded by PCGS with only one specimen finer than the present one. A splendid opportunity.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-64).

Maker: M. Deriberpie, 1852-54.

Obverse: Same as BG-421.

Reverse:. Very similar to BG-421. CALIFORNIA GOLD. HALF D. around scant, small wreath, date at center above crude triangular bow. A six-pointed star is above the date near the top of the wreath. The letters in the peripheral legend are crude and broken, several of them repunched as well. 1 and 8 in date close, 8 and 5 distant, 5 and 3 distant. A large raised die line runs through the lower portion of the 8, 5, and 3 in the date. Wreath with four triple leaves per side and six crude berries per stem. Bisecting crack from rim to rim from 3:00 to 9:00, heavily raised die lines among portions of the legend. This is the only die state known; the die crack leads us to believe that this die broke down during use and was quickly discarded, thereby accounting for the rarity of the variety.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

941 **1853 Round 50¢. BG-430. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-64 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with traces of olive iridescence. Fully prooflike, with frosty motifs and mirrored fields. A variety that definitely saw use as pocket change in Gold Rush California; three examples of this variety were recovered from the 1853 wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*. Only five examples of this date have received finer grades from PCGS.

PCGS Population: 13; 5 finer (MS-66 finest).

Maker: Antoine Louis Nouizillet, 1852-58.

Obverse: Federal style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around. Star five nearly touches tip of coronet.

Reverse: HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD around an open top wreath, six-pointed star below wreath, date within wreath. Five triple leaves on left stem of wreath, five triple leaves on right stem, five pairs of berries per stem, angular bow within wreath. Date numerals nicely formed and evenly spaced, 5 leans slightly right, large ornate balls on 3.

Edge: Reeded

Die State I: Perfect dies.

It is interesting to note that the present variety, BG-430, was illustrated as current money on the cover of Dye's 1854-1855 cambist, there valued at 48¢ for gold content. The same illustration was used on the cover of Hodges' *Gold & Silver Coin Chart Manual*, where it was also valued at 48¢ (circa 1858; later, circa 1861 the value there was reduced to 32¢).

Desirable 1855/4-FD Overdate Octagonal $1
Tied For Finest Certified by PCGS

942 **1855/4-FD Overdate. Octagonal $1. BG-511. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+. MS-63 (PCGS).** Distinctive yellow gold with olive traces on the obverse, and with a hint of bright orange iridescence on the reverse. An area of planchet darkness is noted at 2:00 on the obverse. An early auction appearance of this coin was in the March

13, 1882 sale held by John W. Scott, where an example of this variety was sold as Lot 16. A delightfully prooflike specimen, with frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields. A lovely example of a variety that is typically found lightly circulated. No example of BG-511 has received a finer grade from PCGS.

PCGS Population: 6; none finer.

Maker: Frontier, Deviercy & Co., 1853-64.

Obverse: Federal style head of Liberty to left, 10 five-pointed stars around, first four stars between point of Liberty's bust and tip of coronet.

Reverse: CALIFORNIA. GOLD, separated by a five-pointed star, around a beaded circle, FD beneath the circle, F broadly repunched. 1, DOLLAR, and date on three lines within circle, I apparently from an I punch, DOLL close, L L lean distinctly left, L A R widely spaced, R leans distinctly left. 185 in date evenly spaced, 55 close, second 5 heavily repunched to obliterate the underlying 4.

Edge: Reeded.

Die State I: Heavy obverse polishing beginning to remove lower portions of Liberty's portrait, with the bridge of her nose nearly removed by polishing.

Popular 1853-DERI $1
BG-514, High Rarity-5

943 1853-DERI Octagonal $1. BG-514. Liberty Head. Rarity-5+. MS-63 (PCGS). Warm yellow gold with lively orange highlights. A lustrous and nicely struck example of one of the most popular gold dollar issues. Another of the varieties that circulated readily in the Gold Rush era, as shown by the recovery of an example of this variety from the 1853 wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*. Among the finest examples of the issue graded by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Maker: M. Deriberpie, 1852-54.

Obverse: Large federal style head of Liberty to left, eight six-pointed stars around, one point on the star punch blunt and broken, three stars between tip of bust and point of coronet.

Reverse: CALIFORNIA GOLD arches around, DERI below an inner circle of tiny triangular beads, 1 DOLLAR 1853 in three lines within circle. Letters in the legend crude, several of them from broken punches, most of them filled. In the denomination, the 1 is boldly repunched, the 8 is low and shows die artifacts within the loops, the 5 is slightly higher than the 8, and the 3 is lowest of all. DOLLAR is nicely formed and evenly spaced, the D perhaps a little low.

Edge: Reeded.

Die State I: Perfect dies.

Another 1853-DERI Octagonal $1

944 1853-DERI Octagonal $1. BG-519. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-63 (PCGS). Highly lustrous and satiny yellow gold with a hint of prooflike reflectivity. A lovely coin for the grade, a piece that is conservatively graded in this writer's eyes (FVV). Another variety that was present in "pocket change" on the ill-fated *S.S. Winfield Scott*, which sank off the coast of California on December 1, 1853; two examples of BG-519 were later retrieved from that wreckage in the early 1960s. A beautiful coin for the grade.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-65 finest).

Maker: M. Deriberpie, 1852-54.

Obverse: Large federal style head of Liberty to left, eight five-pointed stars around, one point of the star punch broken and blunt, star five nearly touches upper hair bun, star eight virtually attached to underside of Liberty's bust, sharp beaded dentils around the periphery.

Reverse: Octagonal outer border of beads sharp and crisp. A star followed by CALIFORNIA GOLD followed by another star arches around a tightly beaded circle at the center, with DERI below the circle, 1 DOLLAR 1853 within circle in three lines, DOLLAR closely spaced, evident repunching at the top of OLL, R slightly wider in spacing, right leg broken, date numerals nicely formed and widely though even spaced, numerals slightly lower in progression from left to right.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Die State I: Perfect reverse die; a break later forms from the rim through the first A in the legend.

Impressive 1853-DERI Octagonal $1
None Graded finer by PCGS

945 1853-DERI Octagonal $1. BG-523. Liberty Head. Rarity-5. MS-63 (PCGS). Deep and lustrous orange-gold with intense cartwheel lustre on satiny, faintly mattelike surfaces. A beautiful coin for the grade, easily among the finest known examples of the issue; PCGS has not certified a finer example than the present coin, and they have certified only eight specimens in all Mint State grades.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Maker: M. Deriberpie, 1852-54.

Obverse: Federal style head of Liberty to left, eight six-pointed stars around, one point of star punch broken and blunt, star one practically touches tip of Liberty's bust, tip coronet points to star four, star six nearly touches upper hair bun.

Reverse: A six-pointed star with a broken, blunt tip appears before CALIFORNIA GOLD, another star after GOLD, DERI below inner beaded circle, 1 DOLLAR and date on three lines within circle, left foot of 1 in denomination broken, DOLLAR nicely formed and fairly evenly spaced, outer curve of D thin and tenuous, right foot of R broken, date numeral widely spaced, 85 widest, 3 malformed at base where it nearly touches the beaded circle.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Die State I: Perfect dies.

In *The American Numismatical Manual*, by Montroville Wilson Dickeson M.D., (Philadelphia. J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1859) this type was listed among "California Coins." Interestingly enough, the date is given correctly in the text as 1853, though the artist drew the date as 1857 on the plate coin, mistaking the flat-topped 3 for a 7. According to Bob Leonard, the error was not corrected in the second edition of 1860 or even in the third edition, dated 1865.

946 **1853-N Octagonal $1. BG-530. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-62 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with distinctive olive highlights. Somewhat prooflike, with moderately frosted head of Liberty on the obverse set against satiny, somewhat reflective fields. One of the more plentiful California Small Denomination gold dollar issues. Some 15 or so examples were taken from the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*, suggesting that Nouizillet made these in large quantities for circulation. While many Uncirculated examples of the die combination are known, substantially more are known in circulated grades.

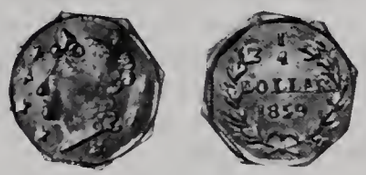
Maker: Antoine Louis Nouizillet, 1852-58.

Obverse: Large federal style head of Liberty to the left, 13 six-pointed stars around, first six stars between tip of Liberty's bust and point of coronet, then a large space followed by seven additional stars.

Reverse: CALIFORNIA GOLD with a group of four tiny dots in a diamond-shaped formation before, between, and after the two words in the legend an N with a six-pointed star on either side is at the bottom of the reverse. A beaded circle is at the center, with the denomination 1 DOLLAR and the date within the circle. DOLLAR evenly spaced, second L slightly tilted left, date numerals large and nicely formed, moderately lower in the die from left to right, bottom of 3 "broken."

Edge: Reeded.

Elusive 1859-FD Octagonal 25¢
BG-701, Low Rarity-6



947 **1859-FD Octagonal 25¢. BG-701. Liberty Head. Rarity-6-. MS-64 (PCGS).** Rich honey gold with bursts of bright orange-gold iridescence. Somewhat prooflike and from highly polished dies with reflective surfaces both around and within the design elements. This rare variety was first discovered by David Proskey or possibly John W. Scott, and first published in *The Coin Collector's Journal,* on page 37 of the March 1884 issue. A rarity from the Period II (1858-1882) issues. Among the finest examples of the variety certified by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 (MS-65 finest).

Maker: Frontier, Deviercy & Co., 1853-64.

Obverse: Broad head of Liberty to left, eight five-pointed stars around, one point of the star punch broken and blunt, FD on coronet in Liberty's hair.

Reverse: Fraction, denomination, and date within open top wreath, five triple leaf groups on left stem, six groups on right stem plus extraneous leaves on both stems. Fraction without fraction bar at top of wreath, DOLLAR at center, date below. D O close, O L distant, L L close, L A R touching. O, first L, and R are all broadly repunched. Some tiny circular lathe marks appear as rings at the center. Date numerals slightly wide but evenly spaced, 5 crude and "patchwork" in appearance, as is the 9.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Die State II: Obverse cracks from rim at 1:00, 3:00, and 4:30.

948 **1870 Octagonal 25¢. BG-713. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. MS-65 (PCGS).** A splendid prooflike gem with mildly reflective fields and frosty motifs. Rich golden surfaces with distinctive olive highlights present. Definitely choice and worthy of serious bidder consideration, particularly if the bidder is currently assembling a gem type set of California Small Denomination gold issues.

PCGS Population: 18; 6 (MS-67 finest).

Maker: Frontier Co., 1864-72.

Obverse: Broad head of Liberty to left, nine five-pointed stars around.

Reverse: Open topped wreath, four groups of triple leaves on left, five groups on right, plus extraneous leaves on both stems, nine berries left, six berries right, perhaps more on each stem though some are faint or blurred. Fraction at open top of wreath, no fraction bar, 1 large and tall, 4 tiny and squat, both faint in the die. DOLLAR at center, D O L higher than L A R. L A R close, A R touching, date left of center, numerals slant down to right progressively from left to right.

Edge: Plain

Exemplary Gem 1871 Octagonal 25¢

949 **1871 Octagonal 25¢. BG-714. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-66 (PCGS).** An exemplary gem specimen with extraordinary eye appeal. The lightly mirrored fields and heavily frosted motifs are virtually alive with intense gold, orange, and olive highlights. Several spidery die cracks at the center of the reverse. It is difficult to imagine a finer specimen than the present coin, though PCGS has certified one specimen at the MS-67 level. A gorgeous coin overall, one that is significantly finer than most other examples of the grade and die combination. In short, one glance and you will feel a distinct need to add this coin to your collection!

PCGS Population: 22; 1 finer (MS-67).

Maker: Frontier & Co., 1864-72.

Obverse: Same as BG-713.

Reverse: Artistically engraved unadorned wreath with double bow loop at bottom, no berries on left, perhaps one or two among leaves on right. Fraction at top without fraction bar, 4 leans slightly left, DOLLAR at the center, D O L widely spaced, L L A touch at base, R slightly tilted left and nearly touching the leaf above. Date slightly left of center, first 1 crude and barely visible, 8 attractively formed, 7 scrawny and tilted right, second 1 more boldly punched than its predecessor.

Edge: Widely reeded

Rare 1871 Octagonal 25¢
BG-716, High Rarity-6

950 **1871 Octagonal 25¢. BG-716. Liberty Head. Rarity-6+. MS-64 (PCGS).** Somewhat prooflike fields and heavily frosted motifs display warm olive and bright orange iridescence. An attractive and decidedly choice coin for the grade. A rarity in all grades. An example of this variety was acquired by Virgil Brand in 1919.

PCGS Population: 3; 6 finer (MS-66 finest).

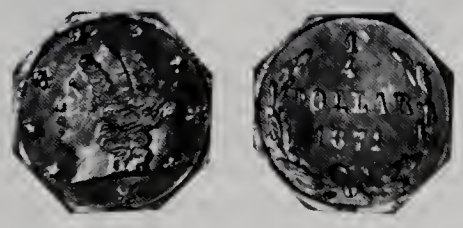
Maker: Frontier & Co., 1864-72.

Obverse: Same as BG-713.

Reverse: Open topped wreath with several elongated leaves on each stem, three berries left, three berries right, double looped bow at bottom. Fraction at top, tall 1, no fraction bar, small 4. DOLLAR above center, top of O broken, L A R attached at bases, R closed by die flaw. Date just below center, 1 smaller than 8, 8 smaller than 7, 7 taller than final 1.

Edge: Plain

Die State II: Obverse repolished, polished field extends into coronet and separates hair buns on back of Liberty's head. Tiny die cracks near star four and star eight.



951 **1871 Octagonal 25¢. BG-717. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-65 (PCGS).** A lustrous prooflike gem with rich orange toning on yellow gold surfaces. Sharply struck and aesthetically appealing. Virgil Brand purchased a specimen of this die combination from Thomas L. Elder on April 7, 1906. A popular issue, one that is frequently found at choice and gem Uncirculated, a boon to today's collectors.

Maker: Frontier & Co., 1864-72.

Obverse: Same as BG-713.

Reverse: Open topped wreath with several nicely formed individual leaves on each stem, two berries left, two berries right, open double-looped bow at bottom. Fraction, denomination, and date on three lines within wreath. Fraction at top of wreath, no fraction bar, numerals nicely formed. DOLLAR evenly spaced and nicely formed, berry opposite R. Date numerals nicely formed and widely but evenly spaced.

Edge: Plain.

Die State III: Die heavily repolished, nose and front of coronet "broken" and fully prooflike. Several tiny cracks extend into the field from various points at the rim.

Choice 1872 Washington Head 25¢
BG-723, Low Rarity-6

952 **1872 Octagonal 25¢. BG-723. Washington Head. Rarity-6-. MS-63 (PCGS).** Deep orange-gold highlights on lustrous, satiny surfaces. Some prooflike reflectivity on both sides. As Bob Leonard noted in the latest edition of *California Pioneer Fractional Gold,* the Washington Head issues with a quarter dollar denomination on the reverse were "unaccountably ignored by Baker, *Medallic Portraits of Washington,* though he listed a similar piece with CHARM reverse as his No. 504." Leonard also called this variety "one of the most popular of all small California gold pieces," a notation with which we heartily concur. For the record, PCGS has certified just two examples of this variety at a finer grade, both MS-64. A splendid opportunity for a California Small Denomination gold type set completist.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Maker: Frontier & Bellemere, 1871-75.

Obverse: Bust of George Washington to left, 13 six-point stars around, the uppermost star nearly resting atop Washington's head, date in large well-formed numerals below the bust.

Reverse: Open top wreath, 11 individual leaves to left, nine individual leaves to right, three berries left, four berries right, the inner berries on both sides on very long stems. Fraction, denomination, and CAL. within wreath on three lines. Fraction at top without fraction bar, numerals nicely formed, DOLLAR at center, nicely spaced, D O slightly lower than the other letters, CAL nicely spaced, C slightly lower. Two round loops below CAL at bottom of wreath.

Edge: Plain.

953 **1873 Octagonal 25¢. BG-727. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+. MS-65 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold with reflective surfaces and frosty motifs. Splashes of rich violet and blue iridescence grace the obverse. A splendid gem example of a popular variety, first discovered by David Proskey or John W. Scott, and first published in *The Coin Collector's Journal,* on page 38 of the March 1884 edition. This variety shares a reverse with BG-722.

PCGS Population: 9; 5 finer (MS-67 finest).

Maker: Frontier & Bellemere, 1871-75.

Obverse: Broad head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, star 11 touches upper portion of Liberty's hair bun. Date below bust, numerals slightly lower in the die from left to right. Several raised die lines noted on Liberty's portrait.

Reverse: Ten individual leaves in left branch of open-topped wreath, nine leaves in right stem. Fraction, denomination, and CAL on three lines within wreath. Fraction numerals nicely formed, no fraction bar. DOLLAR nicely spaced, top of O broken, that letter lower than the others, left upright of A also broken. CAL nicely spaced, C marginally lower. A die crack extends across the reverse from 3:00 to 9:00, forming a cud beneath the R in DOLLAR and also connecting the tops of CAL.

Edge: Plain

Uncirculated 1870-G Octagonal 25¢
BG-753, Lazy G Variety

954 **1870-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-753. Liberty Head. Rarity-6+. MS-62 (PCGS).** Deep honey gold with prooflike fields and lightly textured devices. Variety with G entered horizontally rather than

vertically in the die. A rarity in all grades with only eight examples graded Mint State by PCGS, and just a single coin rating higher than the present one. A few faint marks serve to define the assigned grade.

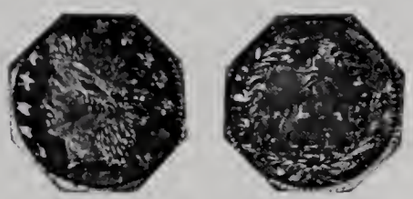
PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-63).

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co., 1858-71 (successors to Antoine Louis Nouizillet).

Obverse: Federal style head of Liberty to left, 13 tiny six-pointed stars around, several stars faint and nearly nonexistent. Maker's mark G horizontal below bust.

Reverse: Four triple leaves and three pairs of berries on each branch in wreath, fraction, DOLLAR, and date within. Fraction bar long and thin, pointed on its right end, 1 well above bar, top of 4 nearly touches underside of bar. DOLLAR widely though evenly spaced, D leans slightly left, O leans slightly right, L leans slightly left, L A R all lean slightly right. 1 in date strong, 870 faintly impressed, all numerals progressively lower from left to right, 7 rakishly to right.

Edge: Crudely reeded.



955 1874 Octagonal 25¢. BG-795. Indian Head. Rarity-3. MS-65 (PCGS). Intense yellow gold with splashes of orange and olive highlights. Impressively prooflike, with frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields. Low date variety, with the bottoms of the date numerals essentially impaled on the dentils below. A popular Indian Head issue; Virgil Brand purchased one from Frank Howland on March 23, 1895. Just one example of the variety has been graded finer by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 16; 1 finer (MS-66).

Maker: Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco, 1872-76.

Obverse: Large Indian Head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, six before the portrait, seven behind the portrait, date below portrait. 18 evenly spaced, 87 widely spaced, 74 evenly spaced, 74 higher in the die than the other two numerals.

Reverse: Heavy ornate wreath, nearly closed at the top by single leaves, 11 berries left, 11 berries right. Fraction, denomination, and CAL on three lines within wreath, long thin fraction bar separates two nicely formed numerals, DOLLAR nicely shaped and evenly spaced, AR perhaps a trifle lower than the other letters, CAL widely yet evenly spaced, CA perhaps wider than AL. Tiny bow below CAL.

Edge: Plain.

Gem "1852" Indian Octagonal 25¢
None Graded Finer by PCGS

956 "1852" (1881-83) Octagonal 25¢. BG-799U ("1852"/C). Indian Head. Rarity-5+. MS-65 (PCGS). Intense, vibrant orange iridescence and high degree of lustre on satiny motifs and deeply mirrored fields. Nicely struck and aesthetically appealing, the way a gem quality specimen should be! This exact type was first published and described by Robert H. Burnie in 1955. A rare and desirable back-dated issue, with the present specimen among the finest certified by PCGS. Definitely a prize for an advanced specialist.

PCGS Population: 6; none finer.

Maker: Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco, 1872-76.

Obverse: Large Indian head, six five-pointed stars before the portrait, seven five-pointed stars behind the portrait, date below. 1 of date touches bust above and dentils below, apparently repunched. 852 touch the dentils below, 85 wide, 52 close, hair touches tops of 52. Additional, star nine is attached to a feather in the headdress.

Reverse C: Open topped wreath with single leaves at end, tips of leaves curve upward and outward. Eleven berries on each side of wreath. Fraction and DOLLAR within wreath, short fraction bar, numerals large and nicely formed, DOLLAR nicely formed and uniformly spaced.

Edge: Plain.

As noted by Bob Leonard in the second edition of *California Pioneer Fractional Gold,* "in 1876 two series were produced: one with CAL for sale as California souvenirs, and one with CAL for sale outside California, chiefly in the East and Midwest." He goes on to note "thereafter, the CAL was discontinued. The No CAL series also included back-dated pieces to provide additional varieties for sale to date collectors, or to hide the fact that illegal striking was continuing. The entire No CAL group dates to 1876-81 despite containing varieties dated earlier. Previous collectors have found them difficult not only because many are rare but also because previous attempts at classification have been needlessly muddled by repeated misdescriptions of the same reverses (reground, or with die cracks, or "ghosts" obscuring berries) as different dies, and failure to realize that many coins are back-dated."

957 1866 Octagonal 50¢. BG-903. Liberty Head. Rarity-5+. MS-64 (PCGS). A frosty beauty of near gem quality. Medium gold with reflective fields, frosty motifs, and distinct olive highlights. Some "bubbling" is noted on both sides (see below). Another of the variety that first gained recognition in *The Coin Collector's Journal,* this particular one being listed on page 40 of the March 1884 edition. Scarce when found so nice.

PCGS Population: 8; 4 finer (MS-65 finest).

Maker: Frontier & Co., 1865-72.

Obverse: Large Head of Liberty to left, 11 six-pointed stars around, final star directly below Liberty's portrait.

Reverse: Scanty wreath, six triple leaves per stem, 10 berries left, nine berries right, five-pointed star below tiny, broken bow at bottom of wreath. Fraction at top of wreath, large, well-formed numerals, no fraction bar. DOLLAR above center of wreath, letters nicely spaced, A slightly low, left upright of that letter broken, R broken at top, right foot touches leaf. Date below center, numerals nicely formed and evenly spaced, 1 tilts somewhat to the right.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Dr. John W. Rowe (known to numismatics as Jay Roe) was, among other things, a well-known chemist by trade. Analysis by Dr. Rowe showed that planchets for the present variety were typically 84% gold, 11% silver, and 5% copper plated over a core of 57% gold, 7% silver and 36% copper, or roughly 20 karat plated over a 14 karat core. This plating would account for the "bubbling" often seen on the plated varieties designated by Dr. Rowe and others.

Impressive Gem 1876 Octagonal 50¢
BG-932, Baby Head Variety
None Graded Finer by PCGS

958 1876 Octagonal 50¢. BG-932. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. MS-65 (PCGS). Baby Head variety. An incredible gem specimen with deeply mirrored fields and heavily frosted motifs. The surfaces are deep honey gold with intense orange iridescence in places, particularly at Liberty's portrait and tresses. A definite gem of extraordinary quality and eye appeal, and one glance readily confirms the assigned grade. According to Bob Leonard, H.G. Brown of Portland, Oregon and Spokane, Washington, owned an example of this variety near the turn of the 20th-century; that specimen was later sold by Lyman H. Low on October 11, 1904, Lot 146. PCGS has not certified an example of this variety at a finer grade! Definitely one of the visual highlights of the current offering, a splendid gem in all regards.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Maker: Herman J. Brand, San Francisco.

Obverse: Small head of Liberty to left, one of the "Baby Head" varieties, 13 five-pointed stars around (Bob Leonard refers to them as "cinquefoil stars") star six attached to point of coronet, heavily die file lines on Liberty's portrait, date below, numerals rest atop pointed dentils below, obvious repunching in center of 6, often called "1876/5."

Reverse: Large, ornate wreath, six ornate groups of spidery leaves and 10 berries per stem, rounded bow at bottom of wreath shows recutting in several places. Fraction, denomination, CAL within wreath, fraction near top with long fraction bar, 1 nicely formed and above bar, 2 dramatically repunched and touching bar above. DOLLAR widely but evenly spaced, O broadly repunched at bottom, L slightly higher with traces of repunching at bottom, second L even higher, A lower, and showing repunching, R finely formed. CAL above bow, CA both broadly repunched.

Edge: Plain.

The Lyman Low sale of the H.G. Brown Collection in 1904 is notable as the first auction appearance of a Lesher dollar. The sale also included an 1804 dollar.

Lovely Gem 1872/1 Octagonal 50¢
Large Indian Head Variety
Tied For Finest Certified by PCGS

959 1872/1 Octagonal 50¢. BG-937 Indian Head. Rarity-4. MS-65 (PCGS). Deep, vibrant orange highlights on bright yellow gold surfaces. The fields are deeply prooflike, and the motifs are satiny and sharp. A splash of pale sky blue graces the highest points of the design. A popular variety, the first of the Large Indian Head issues. As Bob Leonard noted, this variety is typically "22K gold plated over 10K or less gold." You won't see or find a finer gem than the present specimen, at least not in a PCGS holder. Bid confidently here, for the end result will be ownership of an exquisite coin in an outstanding grade.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Maker:. Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco.

Obverse: Large Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, star six attached to first feather in the Indian's headdress, lowest hair curl extends above right side 8, die crack from hair curl to top of that numeral, that numeral also shows repunching within the upper loop, and faint traces of the overdate are also visible.

Reverse: Large, bountiful wreath with seven triple leaves on left stem, eight triple leaves on right, 12 berries per stem, wreath nearly closed at top. Fraction high within wreath, numerals well formed and fraction bar sturdy, 2 in fraction filled. DOLLAR just below center of wreath, nicely formed and evenly spaced, berry opposite D and R. CAL. below, letters nicely formed and evenly spaced.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Die State II: Reverse rim cud in wreath at the 3:00 position.

Gem 1875 Indian Head Octagonal 50¢
Hand Engraved Date Variety

960 1875 Octagonal 50¢. BG-946. Indian Head. Rarity-4. MS-65 (PCGS). Hand-engraved date variety, so-named for the crude, faint numerals that were obviously carved into the die by hand, not placed there using puncheons. Bright and deep olive-gold mirrors support frosty orange-gold devices. A splendid gem in all respects, visually, physically, and aesthetically. Typical weakness seen behind the Indian's ear, probably the result of a die crack that spreads across the Indian's cheek. This variety was first discovered by Kenneth W. Lee, circa 1970-79, and first described by Lee in 1979. Among the finest examples of the date graded by PCGS; just one has been certified finer by that firm. Lovely.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-66).

Maker: Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco.

Obverse: Indian to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, crude hand cut date below bust.

Reverse: Large ornate wreath, nearly closed at the top, six triple leaves per stem, 11 berries left, 10 right (the eleventh berry on the left maybe just a small die flaw opposite the 1 in the fraction), bow at bottom of wreath separated from wreath stems by heavy die polishing. Fraction inside wreath at top, numerals thin but shapely, horizontal fraction bar also thin. DOLLAR at the center, nicely though somewhat widely spaced, O faint. CAL below widely but evenly spaced, top of C broken.

Edge: Plain.

Die State II: Base of 8 in date open, die crack from bottom of 8 to rim below, other die cracks from rim at 7:00 and 8:30. 50

Gem Uncirculated 1876 Octagonal 50¢
None Certified Finer by PCGS

961 **1876 Octagonal 50¢. BG-953. Indian Head. Rarity-5. MS-65 (PCGS).** Large Date. Deep honey gold mirrors support satiny honey gold motifs. Splashes of deep orange and pale sky blue enhance the overall effect of this beautiful gem specimen. A truly splendid coin, just one of three examples of the variety called MS-65 by PCGS, with none graded finer.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Maker: Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco.

Obverse: Indian head to left, several heavy die lines on her portrait, 13 five-pointed stars around, date below 1 higher than 8, 7 taller than 8, 6 slightly lower than 7 and touching pointed dentil.

Reverse B: Fancy but scanty wreath, nearly closed at top, terminal leaves point upward, six leaf groups and a terminal leaf per stem, 13 berries per stem, tiny, bow at bottom of wreath. Fraction near top of wreath, numerals well formed and evenly spaced from the horizontal fraction bar. DOLLAR nicely formed and evenly spaced, D O leans slightly left, tail of R attached to leaf. A long spine runs from the rim at 3:00 to the leaf opposite R in DOLLAR.

Edge: Plain.

Rare 1871-G Round 50¢
None Certified Finer by PCGS

962 **1871-G Round 50¢. BG-1028. Liberty Head. Rarity-6+. MS-62 (PCGS).** Satiny honey gold with pale sky blue highlights and some prooflike reflectivity in the fields. Lightly struck from heavily repolished dies (this obverse also saw use in BG-1025, 1026, and 1027). A rarity in any grade, as PCGS has certified only eight examples. The present specimen is certainly Condition Census as PCGS has not certified any example of this date above MS-62.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

Maker: California Jewelry Co., (Levison Bros.), successors to Robert B. Gray & Co.

Obverse: Small head of Liberty to left, G marker's mark below bust, 13 small, faint six-pointed stars around, G maker's mark and immediately below truncation, date below maker's mark, 18 widely spaced, 871 evenly spaced, 8 open at bottom, 7 tilted dramatically right, second 1 thin and attenuated.

Reverse: Large wreath, five triple leaves per stem, two berries left (plus an empty stem inside the wreath at 9:00), four berries right, inverted five-pointed star at opening atop wreath. HALF DOLLAR CAL on three lines within wreath, HA close, A low and without crossbar, A L wide, L lower yet and leaning right, L F wide. DOLLAR evenly spaced save for the D O, which are wider than the other letters, D high, OLLAR, even at bottoms. CAL very widely spaced, C tilts noticeably right, A without crossbar, L noticeably low. No bow to wreath.

Edge: Plain.

Uncirculated 1875 Indian Round 50¢ Rarity
BG-1036, High Rarity-7

963 **1875 Round 50¢. BG-1036. Indian Head. Rarity-7+. MS-62 (PCGS).** Small Indian Head variety. Bright yellow mirrors and frosted motifs display warm olive, and orange-gold iridescence. An extraordinary rarity within the series, one of just four examples of the variety enumerated by Robert Leonard in the second edition of the *California Pioneer Fractional Gold*. The present piece is the only one of the variety certified at MS-62 by PCGS; just one example of the variety has received a finer grade from that firm. Of the four examples enumerated by Leonard in his census, one is holed and plugged, with solder remnants on both sides. The present specimen is Condition Census by default, as the Condition Census typically involves the top *six* examples of any given date or variety; there is room for two more in the Condition Census for this variety. A classic among the series, and a variety that will see spirited bidding activity.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-63).

Maker: Herman J. Brand, San Francisco

Obverse: Small Indian Head to left, 13 large five-pointed stars around, virtually all of them impaled on the pointed dentils at the rim. Date numerals below, 18 small, 75 large and tilted to left.

Reverse: Fraction, DOLLAR, and CAL within open topped wreath, five triple leaves and eight berries per wreath stem, small bow at bottom. Fraction high in wreath, fraction bar with long spur at left end, numerals nicely centered above and below bar. DOLLAR evenly yet somewhat widely spaced, first L leans slightly left, second L boldly repunched, A very faint in die. In CAL the C is very wide from the A, the AL are widely but evenly spaced.

Edge: Plain.

Rare 1871-H Round Half Dollar
BG-1041, High Rarity-6
Finest Graded by PCGS

964 **1871-H Round 50¢. BG-1041. Liberty Head. Rarity-6+. MS-64 (PCGS).** Deep mirror fields and lightly frosted motifs display intense orange, sky blue, and rose iridescence. According to Robert Leonard's research, "an example of the type of BG-1041-46 assayed by the U. S. Mint in 1871 was .520 fine gold and weight 7.6 grains equal 0.49 grams (the average weight for these), giving it a value of 17c." This variety is frequently found with various types of jewelry damage. A rare variety, one that was suppressed by the federal government during their "witch hunt" that began in August 1871 and continued for years afterwards, all in an effort to suppress Period

Two California Small Denomination gold issues. The finest example of this rarity certified by PCGS, and one of only eight graded by the firm- a notation that should alert you to the upcoming state of furious bidding to expect when this choice Mint State specimen crosses the auction block.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Maker: Hershfield & Mitchell, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Obverse: Tiny, fanciful head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, H maker's mark below truncation, date below maker's mark, 18 very close, 87 widely spaced, 71 very close and lower than 18.

Reverse: Stark yet ornate wreath, four triple leaves per side, seven berries per side, five-pointed star at opening atop wreath, no bow at bottom. HALF DOLLAR CAL on three lines within wreath, long die line from bottom of F in HALF to side of A in DOLLAR below. DOLLAR closely spaced, DOL lower than second L, AR virtually touch at their bases. CAL small, CA wider than AL, die line from right foot of A into field.

Edge:

Rare 1874 Round Indian 50¢
BG-1054, Low Rarity-7
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

965 **1874 Round 50¢. BG-1054. Indian Head. Rarity-7-. MS-64 (PCGS).** Small hand-engraved date variety. Bright yellow gold mirrors support frosty, satiny yellow gold motifs. A beautiful coin overall, one that comes oh-so-close to gem physically; it has already arrived at that level aesthetically! This variety was first discovered by Kenneth W. Lee, sometime between 1955 and 1970, when it was first described by Lee. Bob Leonard's recent census for this variety enumerates 10 different specimens, although cautions "perhaps one duplicate" may be in that census. The present coin may in fact be number two in the Leonard census (Bowers and Merena, January 1992, Texas:4396), although an exact match could not be made to the photo in the cited Bowers and Merena catalogue. That fact notwithstanding, the present specimen is high in the Condition Census for this rare variety, and will see spirited and serious bidding competition as a result.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Maker: Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco.

Obverse: Small Indian head to left, 13 large five-pointed stars around, small hand-engraved date below, 1 tiny, 8 large, 7 repunched at the top, 4 with large crosslet feature. Obverse cracks from the rim at 8:00, 9:30, and 12:00 point to an early failure of the die, thus accounting for the rarity of this variety.

Reverse: Large ornate wreath six leaf groups and 10 berries per stem, small bow at bottom of wreath. Fraction, DOLLAR, and CAL on three lines within wreath. Fraction near top of wreath, horizontal fraction bar thin, both numerals tall, thin, and stately. DOLLAR across center, DO leans slightly left, both letters broken at the top, all letters widely but evenly spaced, R broken at top. CAL widely but evenly spaced, C broken at top, small curled leaf nearly touches base of L.

Edge: Plain.

Choice Uncirculated 1876 Indian 50¢
BG-1064, Rarity-6
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

966 **1876 Round 50¢. BG-1064. Indian Head. Rarity-6. MS-64 (PCGS).** An impressive prooflike cameo specimen with frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields. The satiny motifs and areas of the field are splashed with pale sky blue and deep orange-gold iridescence. An impressive coin for the grade, and an impressive grade for the variety; PCGS has not certified a finer example of this variety.

PCGS Population: 7; none finer.

Maker:. Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco.

Obverse: Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, large, low date below bust, 1 impaled on pointed dentil below.

Reverse A: Large, scant wreath, many finely detailed small leaves on each branch, probably a dozen berries on each stem, though design weakness disallows an exact count on this particular specimen. Small bow at bottom, moderately open at top, wreath ends curl up. Fraction near top of center of wreath, numerals tall and well formed, widely spaced from the thin horizontal fraction bar. DOLLAR beneath fraction, widely but evenly spaced, berry immediately after R.

Edge: Plain.

Elusive 1882 Indian Half Dollar
BG-1077, High Rarity-6
Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

967 **1882 Round 50¢. BG-1077. Indian Head. Rarity-6+. MS-63 (PCGS).** Young Head variety. Deep and lustrous orange-gold with somewhat reflective fields and satiny, mattelike devices. A glorious coin for the grade, with eye appeal and physical stature that go well beyond the assigned grade. Speaking of the assigned grade, MS-63, as represented here, is the finest grade assigned to any example of this variety by PCGS. According to Bob Leonard, X-Ray florescence reveals that BG-1077 is a variety that is gold plated on silver and copper, and he goes on to note that this variety is "frequently on slightly defective granular planchets." A lovely example of a rare variety, one of the finest currently certified.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Maker: Nast, Greenzweig & Co., San Francisco.

Obverse: Small or "Young" Indian head to left, 13 well-formed, five-pointed stars around bust, date high below truncation, 1 with long diagonal upper serif, date numerals widely but evenly spaced.

Reverse: Large bountiful wreath nearly closed at the top, fraction, denomination, and CAL within wreath. Six triple leaf groups per stem, 13 berries per stem. Fraction high near top of wreath, numerals thin and well made, horizontal fraction. DOLLAR at center, numerals somewhat widely yet evenly spaced, D broadly repunched, top of R opposite of inner berry. CAL at bottom of center, letters widely but evenly spaced.

Edge: Plain.

Die State II: Heavy reverse clash marks. Clash marks are also noted on the obverse.

Another Rare 1882 BG-1077
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

968 **1882 Round 50¢. BG-1077. Indian Head. Rarity-6+. MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous bright yellow gold with distinctive olive highlights on the high points. A second choice Mint State example of this rare issue, one that should elicit equally strong bidding activity from the underbidders on the preceding lot.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Maker: Nast, Greenzweig & Co., San Francisco.

Obverse: Same as above.

Reverse: Same as above.

Edge: Same as above.

Die State II: Same as above.

Popular 1871-G Liberty Head $1

969 **1871-G Octagonal $1. BG-1109. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold with honey and olive highlights. Prooflike fields and frosty motifs form a faint but pleasing cameo contrast. Scarcer in Mint State than its Rarity-4- status indicates.

PCGS Population: 11; 3 finer (MS-64 finest).

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co., 1858-71, successors to Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

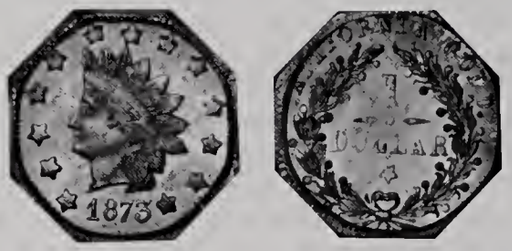
Obverse: Large, stocky head of Liberty to left, 13 stars around, G marker's mark immediately beneath truncation, date immediately beneath maker's mark. First obverse star points directly to point of Liberty's bust, inner point of star 10 nearly touches hair bun. Date numerals widely spaced, 18 somewhat higher than 7, 7 lower than following 1.

Reverse: CAL GOLD. around a small, scant wreath, four triple leaf groups on each stem, two pairs of berries on each stem, oblique double bow at bottom of wreath. Denomination with a large 1 at top of wreath, DOLLAR in smaller letters at center of wreath, R low.

Edge: Widely reeded.

Die State I: No obverse die crack.

Choice Uncirculated 1873 Indian Head $1



970 **1873 Octagonal $1. BG-1123. Indian Head. Rarity-4+. MS-63 (PCGS).** Deep and rich yellow gold mirrors surround frosty yellow motifs. A grand example of the desirable Indian Head gold $1 format. This type is known to be struck on yellow gold plated planchets with a "baser core," according to Bob Leonard's research. Only a few examples of this variety have received a finer grade from PCGS, a fact worth noting when your bidding strategy is planned for this lot.

PCGS Population: 9; 7 finer (MS-66 finest).

Maker: Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco.

Obverse: Small Indian portrait to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, stars five, six, nine, 10 and 12 attached to dentils, stars six and seven attached by thin die lines to feathers in headdress. Date below bust, 1 and 8 wider than 873, 8 higher than the other three numerals.

Reverse: CALIFORNIA GOLD. arcs above a bountiful but small wreath, nearly closed at the top, small bow at bottom. Several groups of leaves on both sides give the wreath a bushy appearance, 13 berries per wreath stem. Denomination within wreath, a large 1 at the top, with a dot and two elongated diamonds in a pattern below the numeral, DOLLAR below that, letters nicely formed and evenly spaced, inverted five-pointed star below DOLLAR, bow beneath star.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Die State I: Perfect reverse die, crack not yet formed.

Choice Uncirculated 1875 Indian Octagonal $1
Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

971 **1875 Octagonal $1. BG-1126. Indian Head. Rarity-5. MS-64 (PCGS).** Bright orange-gold with frosty motifs and heavily mirrored fields. Splashes of rich, deep orange accentuate the reverse details. An exemplary example of a moderately rare variety, the present coin being one of three examples of the variety certified as MS-64 by PCGS, with none certified finer! Bob Leonard noted that this variety is typically struck on planchets that are "yellow gold plated over baser core." A tiny gold dollar that packs a colossal amount of eye appeal.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Maker: Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco.

Obverse: Small, distinctive Indian portrait to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, first four and final four stars distant from dentils, upper five stars are close or touching dentils, uppermost star repunched. Die line backward from Indian's lip to cheek area. Date beneath bust, numerals much closer to bust than dentils below, nicely formed (though somewhat crude), 5 lower than other three numerals.

Reverse: CALIFORNIA GOLD arcs above a thin but bountiful wreath, nearly closed at the top. Seven triple leaves per stem, 11 berries left, 12 berries right, small bow and knot at bottom of wreath. Denomination as 1 high in the top of the wreath, dot and elongated diamond design below, DOLLAR nicely formed and evenly spaced, D perhaps slightly smaller than the other letters. A berry opposite D, another berry opposite R. Inverted five-pointed star below the denomination. The reverse is shattered, which probably resulted in an early discard of the die, thereby accounting for the rarity of the variety today.

Edge: Plain

Choice Uncirculated 1875 Octagonal Indian $1

972 **1875 Octagonal $1. BG-1127. Indian Head. Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS).** Bright, rich yellow gold with deeply mirrored fields and frosty motifs. A whisper of bright orange iridescence graces the reverse. Struck on a planchet that is "yellow gold plated over reddish 9K gold," according to Bob Leonard's research. An example of this variety was presented to the American Numismatic Society on April 20, 1907 by Daniel Parish, Jr.

PCGS Population: 9; 10 finer (MS-65 finest).

Maker: Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco.

Obverse: Same as BG-1126.

Reverse: Similar to BG-1126, here the uppermost inner leaf touches the upper serif of the 1 in the denomination.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Choice Mint State Indian Octagonal $1
Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

973 **1876/5 Octagonal $1. BG-1129. Indian Head. Rarity-4. MS-64 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous olive-gold with deeply mirrored fields and lightly frosted motifs. A lovely example of a very popular issue, one that is among the finest certified by PCGS; one glance will verify the quality of the present coin. According to the latest edition of the Breen-Gillio reference, BG-1129 is struck on planchets made of "yellow gold plated over baser core (gold? silver?). "This variety was discovered by Augustus G. Heaton sometime before April 1908.

PCGS Population: 12; none finer.

Maker: Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco.

Obverse: Same as BG-1126, here the date has been altered in the die.

Reverse: Same as BG-1127, with reverse altered by maker, now showing extra berries at bow and ragged extra leaves.

Edge: Plain.

Another Mint State 1876/5 Indian Octagonal $1

974 **1876/5 Octagonal $1. BG-1129. Indian Head. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with reflective fields and frosty motifs. Splashes of rich orange iridescence adorn the design motifs. Another pleasing Uncirculated example of this popular variety.

Maker: Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco.

Obverse: Same as above.

Reverse: Same as above.

Edge: Same as above.

PATTERN COINS

With almost 100 lots of pattern coins, specialists in this series should carefully examine the pages to follow – they are filled with high-grade examples of popular issues and *extreme rarities*, the sort of items that are perhaps offered once in a lifetime! As an appropriate foil to the Larry Steve collection, many fine small cent patterns are offered, including a beautiful gem Proof 1865 cent in nickel. Two rare 1873 trime patterns use the regular issue dies, but were struck in copper and aluminum. Rarities, these! An exceptional group of five-cent patterns follow, including "nickel" patterns and an 1864 half dime struck in nickel alloy. A Morgan dime in silver and a Liberty by the Seashore in copper will excite specialists, and larger denomination patterns include many once-in-a-lifetime highlights. The 1872 Amazonian quarter in silver is a classic, particularly in Proof-65 grade, this being the finest known! The popular Indian Princess design is here seen on half dollars and dollars alike, in a wide range of metals. The section of pattern dollars is exceptional – it will have to speak for itself, as a highlight listing would simply duplicate the catalogue listings! As patterns are coming into their own, especially with the new 8th edition of the Judd book (rewritten by Q. David Bowers) coming out soon, these pieces will be immediately absorbed into collections — we hope that yours is among them! Catalogue descriptions are by Frank Van Valen and Andrew W. Pollock, III, noted pattern expert and one of our consultants.

1853 Liberty Head Pattern Cent
Struck in German Silver

975 **1853 pattern cent. Liberty Head design from the gold $2.50. Judd-151, Pollock-178. Rarity-5. Proof-63 (NGC).** German silver or nickel alloy (German silver being a general term without precise definition). Reeded edge. The obverse is from a standard production die of the 1853 quarter eagle. The reverse is from a pattern die featuring the denomination ONE CENT in wreath. Attractively toned in shades of blue, violet, and gold. Close examination reveals a scattering of spots and flecks consistent with the grade, not unusual for the variety. This is a true pattern, not a numismatic creation, and was struck for strictly utilitarian purposes. Although this and other examples are commonly graded as Proofs, they were not made from highly polished dies.

Beginning in 1850 the Mint issued several different varieties of one-cent patterns in connection with its attempt to find a substitute for the bulky large cents that were still in circulation. Mint officials and the Treasury Department felt that the old "large" copper cent was too cumbersome to use and too expensive to manufacture. During the ensuing years many different reduced-diameter patterns were made of various alloys and utilizing several different motifs. The solution was finally achieved in 1857, when copper-nickel Flying Eagle cents entered into the channels of commerce, these depicting on their obverse the bird created by Christian Gobrecht for the 1836 Liberty Seated dollar reverse.

Popular 1854 Pattern "Large" 1¢

976 **1854 pattern "Large" cent. J-160, P-187. Rarity-4. Proof-66 BN (NGC).** Copper. Plain edge. Obverse and reverse types similar to the regular-issue type, but without stars around Liberty's portrait. Reflective chocolate brown surfaces with deep electric blue iridescence in the protected areas. A popular pattern issue that is closely reminiscent of the circulating large cents of era, but on a slightly smaller planchet and with a noticeably different reverse style.

The diameter and weight are reduced in comparison with the regular-issue type; another entry in the field of experiments by the Mint to make the bulky and cumbersome cent denomination more convenient for public commerce. Then as well as now the cent was the most ubiquitous coin on the American scene.

977 **1854 pattern "Large" cent. J-160, P-187. Rarity-4. MS-64 BN (NGC).** Copper or bronze. Plain edge. Similar to the regular issue type, but without stars around Miss Liberty's portrait. Warm uniform chocolate brown toning enhances both surfaces.

Although this coin is graded as Mint State it is no different from those that have been called Proofs; all are from the same die pair and in the same state.

978 **1854 pattern "Large" cent. J-161, P-187. Rarity-4. MS-60 RB (ANACS).** Copper or bronze. Plain edge. Variety as preceding. Sharply struck and partially brilliant with blushes and splashes of blue and tan.

Listed as "original" on the ANACS label indicating that the weight falls in the range of 90 to 100 grains, rather than 113 to 114 grains, occasionally seen for restrikes.

Pattern 1858 Flying Eagle Cent
Ornamental Shield Reverse

979 1858 pattern Flying Eagle cent. J -193, Pollock-236. Rarity-5. Proof-63 (NGC). Cupro-nickel. Plain edge. The obverse is the standard Flying Eagle die used for the regular issue circulation strikes of the date. The reverse has an open-topped oak wreath, laurel sprigs and arrows at bottom, ornamental shield at top. A sharply struck example with strong lustre and rich rose iridescence. A few faint flecks are seen, chiefly on the reverse. No doubt one of the coins that began life in the 12-piece small cent Proof offerings made up by the Mint and offered to collectors at the time. All things considered, a nice example of a popular issue, one that has been "adopted" by mainstream collectors of Flying Eagle and Indian cents.

Popular 1858 Indian Cent Pattern

980 1858 pattern Indian cent. J-211, P-262. Rarity-4. Proof-63 (NGC). Copper-nickel. Plain edge. The obverse is the type adopted for regular-issue coinage in 1859. The reverse has an unadorned oak wreath, nearly closed at top. Lustrous medium gold with pale rose and blue iridescences on the obverse, with vibrant splashes of orange, pale violet, and pale blue on the reverse. A popular adjunct to the Indian cent series, a pattern issue that has long since been collected along with the regular-issue Indian cents.

Rare 1859 J-231 Pattern Cent
Struck in *Copper or Bronze*

(2x photo)

981 1859 pattern Indian cent. J-231, P-274. Rarity-7+. Proof-64 BN (PCGS). Copper or bronze. Plain edge. Regular-issue dies of the normal style, date numerals from a four-digit logotype, arranged in a gentle arc. This lovely coin displays partially faded mint red despite the BN designation on the PCGS label. Blushes of appealing iridescent blue, violet, and green can be seen in the fields.

While the circumstances surrounding its creation are not known, it is likely the case that this was produced as a numismatic delicacy rather than a pattern.

Although the Mint experimented with bronze in the 1850s, nothing came of the matter at the time, and the new small cents of 1856-1857 were struck in a special copper-nickel alloy.

Among small cents, the first serious involvement with bronze was in 1863 at which time the J-299 coins were struck. Concerning the present piece, as it is encapsulated we cannot weigh it, to see if it is on a 48-grain planchet as adopted in 1864, or on a planchet of some other weight. It would be exceedingly useful if the leading certification services would at least add the weight in grains on the labels of *newly certified* coins, thus providing useful knowledge for attribution and study.

With regard to copper vs. bronze, the Judd text lists both for this die pair, copper as J-230 and bronze as J-231. Determining the difference is a matter of elemental analysis involving a scientific laboratory. Whether this piece was so tested by the certification service is not known to us. If it was not tested, it might be J-230.

Choice Proof Pattern 1864 Indian Cent
Struck in Copper, Thick Planchet

982 1864 pattern Indian cent. J-356a, P-427. Rarity-6+. Proof-64 RB (NGC). Copper. Plain edge. Thick planchet. Struck from regular-issue dies, without Longacre's initial "L" on the obverse. Vivid red-violet surfaces support frosty motifs and mirrored fields. Some faint flecks are seen under low magnification. Struck on a planchet the thickness of the standard issue Copper-nickel "white" cents then current in everyday commerce. An extremely popular pattern issue with Indian cent specialists.

Obverse: Regular die, without designer's initial, L, as used for circulation strikes.

Reverse: Regular die as used for circulation strikes.

Various pattern strikings of Indian cents were produced in 1864, chiefly, it seems, for the purpose of testing various metallic compositions in the small cent format. In addition to the thick planchet copper type offered here, the Mint also struck patterns in copper alloy (13 parts copper, 1 part aluminum; Judd-353), copper alloy (19 parts copper, 1 part aluminum, called "oroide" by Judd; Judd-354), copper alloy (9 parts copper, 1 part aluminum; Judd-355), bronze (Judd-355a), copper alloy (9 parts copper, 1 part tin; Judd-356), copper (Judd-356a, as offered here), and cupro-nickel (Judd-356b).

Impressive Gem Proof 1865 Pattern 1¢

(2x photo)

983 1865 pattern Indian cent. Plain 5. J-406, P-475. Rarity-6-. Proof-65 (PCGS). Nickel. Plain edge. A frosty, lustrous matte-like specimen with surfaces readily reminiscent of the nickel three-

cent pieces of the same date. A whisper of pale gold enhances the lightly reflective fields and frosted motifs. Sharply struck and thoroughly appealing despite a few scattered, faint flecks on both sides. This belongs in your Indian cent set!

Obverse: From the same die used to strike the circulating bronze issues designated Snow-1; repunching at upper serif of 1 and within loops of 8, also at the top of the 5 in date.

Reverse: From the reverse die used to strike circulating bronze cents of the date, specifically Snow-1; a raised die lump is seen on the N in ONE. In the latest edition of Snow reference, author Rick Snow makes note of the fact that this repunched date variety was originally listed in Breen's *Encyclopedia* (1988) as an 1865/4 Overdate. Snow goes on to note that the attribution was later changed to Plain 5 Over Fancy 5 in the 1992 edition of the Snow reference. That attribution was later questioned by Larry R. Steve (whose collection we offer elsewhere in this catalogue), that argument focusing on the shape of the Plain 5 and Fancy 5 digits. Later in the variety's description, Snow notes "This die is also found on some nickel alloy patterns. It is very unusual to find a die that was used to strike Proof quality patterns to be returned to service to strike business strikes."

1866 Indian Cent Struck in Copper Nickel

(2x photo)

984 1866 pattern Indian cent. J-456, P-530. Rarity-6+. MS-65 (NGC). Copper nickel. Plain edge. Regular-issue dies. A splendid lustrous gem example exhibiting just a whisper of delicate iridescence. Presumably produced expressly for the coin collector trade, as were indeed many patterns coined during the era. Certainly among the finest known survivors of the variety.

In the past several years we have witnessed a vastly increased interest in patterns and numismatic delicacies in the Indian Head cent series, a demand fueled in no small part by the enthusiasm engendered by the Fly-In Club and its journal, *Longacre's Ledger,* in step with several excellent books and studies on the series—by Larry Steve, whose collection we showcase elsewhere in this catalogue, and by the illustrious series of books created by Rick Snow.

When this lovely *copper-nickel* 1866 Indian cent crosses the block we expect to see quite a few bids, and deservedly so.

J.W. Scott was perhaps the first to print extensive listings of numismatic rarities in the Indian cent series, with post-1864 copper-nickel cents being including among *regular* cents in his offerings of coins for sale in the waning decades of the 19th century. Such pieces were not designated as patterns by Scott, but appeared to be normal issues, but very rare.

(2x photo)

985 1868 Liberty Head pattern cent. J-605, P-670. Rarity-6. Proof-64 (NGC). Nickel. Plain edge. The obverse has the Liberty motif featured on regular-issue nickel three-cent pieces of the era. The reverse wreath is the type employed on regular-issue gold dollars and three-dollar pieces of the 1860s through the 1880s, and earlier used on Flying Eagle cents. Mostly brilliant with just a hint of gold at the rims. The obverse shows considerable cameo contrast.

This coin is part of a suite of minor issues (cent, nickel three-cents, nickel five cents) employing the common design of a Liberty Head on the obverse and the denomination expressed as a Roman numeral on the reverse. The idea lingered, and in 1869 related patterns were made.

Although today we prefer distinctive designs for each of the several (and very few) denominations of coins being made, in the 19th century the Mint seemed to prefer sameness—as in common motifs used for all of the Liberty Seated silver denominations from the half dime to the dollar, and as a common motif for the $1 and $3 gold and, separately, another common design for the $2.50, $5, and $10 gold. The policy was not particularly unusual and, for example, the coins of England used just a few common designs spread across a large number of denominations.

Very Rare 1868 Liberty Head 1¢
Pollock's Variety I

(2x photo)

986 1868 Liberty Head pattern cent. J-609, P-674. Rarity-7+. Proof-63 RB (PCGS). Copper. Plain edge. The Liberty Head motif is similar in style to the device featured on nickel three-cent pieces. The reverse simply has a Roman numeral I in a wreath to indicate the denomination. Perhaps 40% mint red with blushes of vivid blue and violet in the remaining areas. A lovely coin.

Two minor varieties of J-609 are listed in the Pollock reference; the presently offered piece is "Variety I," distinguished by having the 1 in the date closer to the central motif than to the border. On Variety II the 1 in the date is centered between the motif and border.

Pattern 1869 "Small" Cent in Nickel

(2x photo)

987 **1869 pattern cent. J-666, P-742. Rarity-6. Proof-66 CAM (NGC).** Nickel. Plain edge. The obverse is very similar to the circulating nickel three-cent pieces of the era, but much smaller. The reverse features a laurel wreath with unadorned Roman numeral I at the center, similar in appearance to the circulating nickel three-cent pieces of the date. Satiny devices contrast in a pleasing manner with the mirrored fields. While the design resembles the circulating nickel three-cent pieces of the date, the size is more akin to that of the silver half dimes of the era. A delightfully lustrous gem with a huge amount of eye appeal for such a tiny coin.

The obverse of the present coin seems to be from a collapsing die; a semi-circular "crease" is noted at the bases of STATES OF, which then terminates in the field just shy of AM.

Blazing Red Gem 1881 Pattern 1¢

(2x photo)

988 **1881 Liberty Head pattern cent. J-1666, P-1866. Rarity-6+. Proof-65 RD (NGC).** Copper. Plain Edge. Obverse and reverse motifs similar to those featured on Liberty Head nickels of 1883 and later years. The denomination on the reverse is simply expressed by the Roman numeral I. A blazing gem example certain to delight even the "fussiest" pattern specialist, and certainly among the finest extant examples of the variety.

As pattern specialists know well, finding truly choice examples of bronze and copper issues is a formidable challenge—as so many have been cleaned, recolored, etc. Accordingly, although a piece may be Rarity-6+, as here, the availability of "lovely to look at, lovely to hold" specimens of the caliber of our coin may well be a higher order, such as Rarity-7.

Popular Pattern 1863 2¢
Motto GOD OUR TRUST

989 **1863 GOD OUR TRUST pattern two-cent piece. J-312, P-377. Rarity-4. Proof-65 RB (PCGS).** Copper or bronze. Plain edge. At a quick glance this coin is similar to the adopted type of 1864, but close inspection reveals the motto GOD OUR TRUST on the obverse, instead of the adopted IN GOD WE TRUST. On the reverse the essential design elements are the same as adopted for circulation in 1864, except that the word CENTS is more curved in its arrangement. Perhaps 10% mint red fading to olive tan. Blushes of blue and maroon iridescence enhance both surfaces. Only a tiny proportion of surviving examples could match the splendid quality offered here. Once again, *quality* is emphasized—an aspect that is highly important for sophisticated bidders and buyers.

990 **1863 GOD OUR TRUST pattern two-cent piece. J-312, P-377. Rarity-4. Proof-64 BN (NGC).** Copper or bronze. Plain edge. Variety as preceding, a reprise offering of this numismatically significant issue. Olive surfaces, with hints of faded orange, sea green, and blue. A perpetual favorite with both pattern specialists and two-cent collectors.

1865 2¢ Piece in Copper-Nickel

(2x photo)

991 **1865 pattern two-cent piece. J-409, P-478. Rarity-6+. Proof-64 (PCGS).** Copper-nickel. Plain edge. Regular-issue dies, with "Plain 5" in date. Partially brilliant surfaces, fading to tan. Magnification reveals some faint die polishing lines as made, and a few minute flecks can be seen. A rare variety listed as Rarity-7 in the Pollock reference.

A "wow" coin for the specialist in two-cent pieces, just as a copper-nickel *cent* of this date would be a dazzling acquisition for a specialist in that series. Struck as a numismatic delicacy to please some 19th century dealer or collector. Exceedingly rare today—a good reminder that in the pattern series the opportunity to acquire a piece is often as important as the price paid, for in time the market seems to make everything turn out right.

Pattern 1868 Nickel 3¢

992 **1868 pattern nickel three-cent piece. J-618, P-687. Rarity-5. Proof-64 CAM (PCGS).** Nickel. Plain edge. The obverse is very similar to the circulation strikes of the denomination but on a larger scale. The reverse is also very similar to that of the circulating issue, but without the vertical lines in the uprights of the denomination. Lightly frosted motifs and mirror fields display warm golden highlights. A popular issue with those who enjoy the "oddball" denominations put forth by the mint. Essentially the same as the circulating nickel three-cent pieces of the date, but here in a larger format.

993 **1869 enlarged-diameter pattern nickel three-cent piece. J-676, P-753. Rarity-5. Proof-63 (PCGS).** Nickel. Plain edge. Similar to the regular-issue type, but with the diameter enlarged to approximately one-cent piece size. On the reverse the "I" elements in the Roman numeral III are smooth rather than ribbed. Essentially brilliant surfaces, with just a hint of gold. Close examination reveals a few minor spots and flecks, fairly typical for this and related issues in nickel alloy.

Here at American Numismatic Rarities orders have been pouring in for the new *United States Patterns* book, billed as the 8th edition of the Judd classic, but with a virtually completely rewritten text by Q. David Bowers, plus important technical and research notes by Saul Teichman, plus comprehensive prices (in three different grades, plus auction citations) gathered by Bob Hughes.

If as you read these words in our catalogue you have not yet reserved your copy, please do so now. Yours will be among the first to be shipped, expected to be in early August if all production schedules are met (the project is impressive and immense!).

Desirable 1870 Liberty Seated Trime
A Specialist's Delight!

(2x photo)

994 **1870 pattern silver three-cent piece. J-799, P-886. Rarity-6+, Proof-64 BN (NGC).** Copper. Reeded edge. Obverse with William Barber's novel Liberty Seated motif facing left. The reverse has the regular-issue trime design. Attractive uniform chocolate brown surfaces. Most design features are sharp. Only a handful of examples are identified including at least three impounded in major public collections located in Connecticut and Nebraska.

For the pattern specialist this is a delight, a "must have" variety. Only a few Liberty Seated varieties were ever produced in connection with the silver three-cent or trime series.

In 1870 there was no serious thought being given to striking silver three-cent pieces of this design. The denomination had not circulated (except in the West) since early 1862, and, soon (in 1873) it would be abolished altogether. The present variety was created by taking a Standard Silver *five-cent silver die* and combining it with the reverse of a regular trime, to create a special coin for the numismatic trade.

Gem Proof-65 1873 Pattern Copper 3¢
Regular Proof Dies
Exceedingly Rare and Very Choice!

(2x photo)

995 **1873 pattern nickel three-cent piece, regular Proof dies. J-1260, P-1402. Rarity-7+. Proof-65 RD (PCGS).** Copper. Plain edge. Regular-issue obverse and reverse dies. Close 3 in date. A blazing gem example with fiery mint red fields and hints of blue and violet on the high points. Certainly one of the finest examples of this extremely rare variety. Seldom do more that one or two specimens cross the auction block during the course of a decade.

Please take notice of our comments regarding the *hidden rarity* of really "nice" copper pattern coins. Assigned rarity ratings by Judd, Pollock, *et al.*, are one thing, and the availability of *choice* specimens is often something else entirely.

Exceedingly Rare Aluminum 1873 Trime

Buy it or (possibly) forget it!
Pollock: Only one appearance!

(2x photo)

996 **1873 pattern trime. J-1263, P-1405. Rarity-7+. Proof-66 (PCGS).** Aluminum. Plain edge. Regular-issue dies. Fully brilliant surfaces with bold cameo contrast. Most design features are boldly defined, save for a few of the reverse stars. The fact that Pollock was able to account for only one example of J-1263 in his 1994 pattern reference attests to the extreme rarity of this variety.

As to the significance of this specimen, we could remark that the Proof-66 grade is superb and that quality-wise the coin is a winner. However, its greatest importance lies in its absolute, unquestioned, formidable, daunting *rarity*. It may be the case that if you do not buy this example of J-1263, you can forget about ever owning one! Unless, of course, the lucky buyer of this lot wants to take a profit.

Presumably issued as part of a complete 1873 aluminum Proof set; *aluminum* strikings in all other denominations from bronze through gold have been recorded for the year.

Gem Proof 1866 Washington 5¢

997 **1866 Washington pattern five-cent piece. J-461, P-535. Rarity-6. Proof-65 (PCGS).** Nickel. Plain edge. Obverse with a bust of Washington facing right, after Jean Antoine Houdon's 1785 sculpture. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA around border. The reverse has the denomination "5 CENTS" in a wreath. Both surfaces display pale pewter gray toning with delicate gold, blue, and violet highlights. Notable for being one of the first U.S. pattern varieties to portray the portrait of a president. Worth a generous bid from the Washingtoniana collector and pattern specialist alike. Survivors are seldom seen this nicely preserved.

In grossly altered form (with ridiculous hair curls added prominently) the Houdon bust is familiar today on the obverse of the Washington quarter dollar. Perhaps *Coin World* and *Numismatic News* should each issue rallying calls for the Mint to un-tamper with this classic portrait, and return the Father of Our Country to the appearance he had in 1932 when the Washington quarter made its debut. And, while these highly esteemed numismatic newspapers are at it (if, indeed, they pick up the suggestion), it would be nice to return Abe Lincoln to the way that Victor David Brenner presented him in 1909.

Desirable Proof 1866 Pattern 5¢

Another Specimen

998 **1866 Washington pattern five-cent piece. J-461, P-535. Rarity-6. Proof-62 (PCGS).** Nickel. Plain edge. Obverse and reverse as preceding. Mostly brilliant with blushes of pale gold and lilac. Both surfaces exhibit attractive cameo contrast. Another chance to acquire this attractive and very popular issue.

Rare J-469 Washington Pattern 5¢

IN GOD WE TRUST

(2x photo)

999 **1866 Washington pattern five-cent piece. J-469, P-561. Rarity-7. Proof-62 RB (PCGS).** Copper or bronze. Plain edge. Washington Head obverse as preceding, but with IN GOD WE TRUST at the border. Reverse with numeral "5" in a wreath. Perhaps 20% brilliant, with blushes of blue, violet, and sea green. Spotting in front of Washington's face, as illustrated, is probably all that prevented PCGS from assigning a substantially higher grade. A very rare variety with fewer than a dozen examples believed to exist, at least one of which is permanently (presumably) impounded in a museum collection.

Rare "Dutch 5" 1866 Shield 5¢

(2x photo)

1000 **1866 "Dutch 5" pattern five-cent piece. J-491, P-578. Rarity-7-. Proof-64 BN (PCGS).** Copper or bronze. Plain edge. The obverse is similar to the adopted "Shield" type, but with the date

divided "18 66" by the ball finial at the bottom of the shield. The reverse features a numeral "5" within a wreath. Judd refers to the distinctive denomination numeral as a "Dutch 5," a term retained in the newly published 8th edition of Judd. Attractive golden brown surfaces with some faint hints of steel blue.

Both thin and thick planchet types are known for the variety, but it's impossible to ascertain which type is offered here without breaking the PCGS holder. Again, on behalf of the large and ever-growing community of pattern coin enthusiasts, we present the plea that certification services list the weights of patterns on their labels. In fact, a wide-awake certification service might well consider what other services it can offer, besides grade numbers, to sophisticated buyers. It has been our experience that advanced numismatists *really thrive* on information and details!

We aren't sure why the 5 on the reverse is "Dutch," and the next time an American Numismatic Rarities staffer goes to Holland he or she will have to see if similarly-styled digits can be found on signs, etc.

Gem Proof 1866 Pattern 5¢
Judd-498, Rarity-7
Finest Certified by PCGS

(2x photo)

1001 1866 pattern five cents. J-498, P-584. Rarity-7. Proof-65 RB (PCGS). Copper-bronze. Plain edge. The obverse features a federal shield with cross atop and olive leaves to either side, and with crossed arrows below. IN GOD WE TRUST arches above the shield in tiny letters, while the date below the shield is separated by the ball of the shield. The reverse is the die used to coin the regular-issue nickel Shield five-cent pieces of the date. Splashes of red-violet and gold combine with pale blue and rose in a flashy rainbow of bright iridescence. The medium brown surfaces are deeply mirrored, and the devices are lightly frosted. A popular rarity that is very similar overall to regular-issue Shield nickels of the date, including the rays on the reverse. A prize for the specialist within the denomination.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

1867 Liberty Head Pattern Nickel
J-566 in Nickel Alloy

1002 1867 Liberty Head pattern five-cent piece. J-566, P-627. Rarity-6. Proof-64 (PCGS). Nickel. Plain edge. Obverse with head of Liberty resembling that featured on nickel three-cent pieces of the era. Reverse with CENTS arranged in a straight line. Pink toning at the centers changes to blue peripherally, and then to gold at the rims.

Patterns of the nickel five-cent series exist in many different varieties dated 1865 up to and including 1883. While some are great rarities, the acquisition of at least one impression from each *die* (but not combination) is within the realm of practicality. Our present offering will give you a running start in that direction!

1867 Liberty Head Pattern Nickel
J-570 in Nickel Alloy

1003 1867 Liberty Head pattern five-cent piece. J-570, P-638. Rarity-5+. Proof-64 (PCGS). Nickel. Plain edge. Obverse and reverse types similar to J-566 above, but with a star on Liberty's coronet and with the word CENTS slightly curved. Sharply struck, with pale champagne iridescence on both surfaces.

PCGS Population: 5; 5 finer (Proof-65 finest).

1867 Shield 5¢ in Copper
Regular Dies, No Rays

(2x photo)

1004 1867 Shield pattern five-cent piece. J-573, P-650. Rarity-6+. MS-65 BN (PCGS). Copper. Plain edge. Obverse and reverse are regular-issue types, without rays. This example has "Reverse B" as designated by Andrew W. Pollock III's essential reference, *United States Pattern Coins and Related Issues,* and is distinguished by the presence of stars pointing to the centers of E and T in CENTS. Attractive tan surfaces with hints of deeper iridescence.

Although designated as Mint State by the certification service, this and all other examples of J-573 were struck from Proof dies.

1868 Liberty Head Pattern 5¢
Normal Size Planchet

1005 1868 Liberty Head pattern five-cent piece. J-623, P-692. Rarity-5+. Proof-64 (NGC). Nickel. Plain edge. Regular-issue size

planchet. Obverse with a Liberty Head in the style of three-cent nickels. The reverse has "5 CENTS" in a wreath. Pewter gray centers change to saffron gold at the borders. A tiny planchet flaw can be seen to the right of "5" in the denomination.

Two different planchet sizes were employed during production from these dies. Regular-issue size planchets are about 0.850 inches in diameter and weigh about 75 grains. Broad planchets are about 0.950 inches in diameter and weight about 92 grams.

1868 Liberty Head 5¢
Broad Planchet

(2x photo)

1006 1868 Liberty Head pattern five-cent piece. J-624, P-693. Rarity-6. Proof-65 (PCGS). Nickel. Plain edge. Broad planchet. Designs as described in the preceding listing. The obverse has vivid golden toning. The reverse is mostly brilliant, with blushes of gold on the high points. A scarce issue made especially desirable by the unusual diameter and weight characteristics (see our note under J-623 for a comparison of the broad and regular-issue planchet styles).

Popular J-633 Pattern 5¢

1007 1868 Liberty Head pattern five-cent piece. J-633, P-705. Rarity-5. Proof-63 (NGC). Nickel. Plain edge. High Date. Obverse with a Liberty Head having a five-pointed star on her coronet. Reverse with the denomination expressed by the Roman numeral "V". Intermingled silver gray and champagne iridescence, with most design features showing bold definition. A few tiny spots and flecks are probably all that prevented NGC from assigning a substantially higher grade.

The denomination "V" on the reverse of this and certain other issues (dating back to J-561 of 1867) anticipates the "Without CENTS" nickels of 1883, which generated problems when unscrupulous individuals fraudulently gold-plated and reeded specimens and then passed them into circulation as half eagles. The story of this dido is related in Q. David Bowers' book, *More Adventures With Rare Coins*.

Eye-Appealing 1871 Liberty Head 5¢
Reversed V in Denomination
J-1050 in Nickel Alloy

1008 1871 Liberty Head pattern five-cent piece. J-1050, P-1184. Rarity-6. Proof-64 (PCGS). Nickel. Plain edge. Obverse with a liberty head in the style of nickel three-cent pieces. Reverse with a reversed "V" in the denomination (shaded on the right side rather than on the left) as illustrated. The satiny devices nicely complement the mirror fields. Both surfaces are mostly brilliant with hints of gold. A tiny spot by the top of E in CENTS is mentioned more for purposes of identification than for any other reason.

From Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.'s sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, May 1996, Lot 180.

Scarce 1871 Liberty Head 5¢
Reversed V
J-1051 in Copper

1009 1871 Liberty Head pattern five-cent piece. J-1051, P-1185. Rarity-5. Proof-64 BN (PCGS). Copper. Plain edge. Obverse and reverse types as preceding, including the perplexing use of a wrongly-shaded V. Warm golden brown toning with blues of blue, violet, and sea green iridescence. A feast for the eyes!

1881 Liberty Head Pattern Nickel 5¢
Rare Copper Impression

(2x photo)

1010 1881 Liberty Head pattern five-cent piece. J-1672, P-1873. Rarity-6+. Proof-64 RB (NGC). Copper. Plain edge. Obverse and reverse motifs similar in style to the adopted types of 1883. Perhaps 50% mint red with blushes of delicate blue and violet. An aesthetic treat.

Pattern 1¢, 3¢ and 5¢ of 1881 were the first to bear the celebrated Liberty

Head design by Charles E. Barber that subsequently appeared on regular-issue nickels coined from 1883 through 1912.

In the Judd book, for patterns of this era the terms *copper* and *bronze* are interchangeable. Virtually all "copper" patterns were in fact struck in bronze.

1882 Copper Pattern Liberty 5¢

(2x photo)

1011 **1882 pattern Liberty nickel five-cent piece. J-1691, P-1893. Rarity-6. Proof-65 BN (NGC).** Copper. Plain edge. Obverse and reverse types similar to the adopted Liberty Head style of 1883, but with minor differences in the arrangement of obverse stars. Deep violet and electric blue vie for supremacy on the rich red surfaces of this unusual Liberty nickel pattern. Struck the year before the design type saw general production for circulation, but eagerly sought by many Liberty nickel specialists as an adjunct to the series. Definitely choice for the grade, and assuredly as lovely as the description implies.

Popular Copper 1882 Liberty 5¢ Pattern

(2x photo)

1012 **1882 pattern Liberty nickel five-cent piece. J-1691, P-1893. Rarity-6. Proof-62 BN (PCGS).** Copper. Plain edge. Obverse and reverse types similar to the adopted Liberty Head style of 1883, without CENTS. On the reverse remnants of a stray S can be seen in the field between the S in PLURIBUS and the first U in UNUM. Deep chocolate brown with underlying lustre and pale chestnut highlights on the high points. A popular issue that often serves as an extension of the Liberty nickel series among specialist in that discipline. In an old-style PCGS holder and a coin that may eventually see its way to resubmission to that third-party grading organization.

Obverse: Barber's head of Liberty to left, 13 stars around, date below, virtually as adopted for the circulating issues of the following year, 1883.

Reverse: The "No CENTS" reverse die as adopted in 1883.

Rare 1882 Aluminum Shield 5¢

The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Specimen

(2x photo)

1013 **1882 pattern Shield nickel five-cent piece. J-1695, P-1897. Rarity-7. Proof-65 (PCGS).** Aluminum. Plain edge. Obverse and reverse are similar to the regular-issue Shield type but without the ball at the bottom of the shield. Highly lustrous silver gray devices set against deeply mirrored silver gray fields. A great rarity, with perhaps as few as three examples currently known to collectors. Another grand opportunity for advance pattern specialists. Among the finest graded by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (Proof-67).

From Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.'s sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part I, May 1999, Lot 1061; RARCOA's sale of the Harry X Boosel "1873" Collection, April 1972, Lot 1179.

Desirable 1883 "Pure Nickel" Pattern 5¢

Surprise: Struck in *aluminum!*

(2x photo)

1014 **1883 "Pure Nickel" pattern five-cent piece. J-1706, P-1910. Rarity-7+. Proof-64 Cameo (PCGS).** Aluminum. Plain edge. The obverse is of the Liberty Head portrait style, similar to the regular issue, but with UNITED STATES OF AMERICA surrounding. The reverse proclaims within a wreath that this coin is struck in PURE / NICKEL. *However,* for this specimen, this is hardly the case, for it is struck in aluminum! Aren't patterns fascinating?

Both surfaces of this lovely coin are fully brilliant, with frosty devices and nicely reflective fields. The die alignment is about 300°, an unusual feature suggesting carelessness and perhaps hastiness on the part of Mint personnel who produced the variety. A tiny fleck near the point of Miss Liberty's bust should serve as a means of future identification. J-1706 is an extremely rare variety which is seldom offered more than once or twice during the course of a decade, notes our consultant, pattern expert Andrew W. Pollock III.

Gem Proof-65 1883 Liberty Head 5¢
75% Nickel, 25% Copper Alloy

(2x photo)

1015 1883 pattern Liberty nickel five-cent piece. J-1707, P-1911. Rarity-6+. Proof-65 (PCGS). Nickel alloy (magnetic composition). Obverse and reverse motifs similar in style to the adopted Liberty Head type of the year. A blazing, brilliant gem having frosty devices and nicely reflective fields. Most design features are sharp save for a few leaves near the bottom of the wreath. Microscopic planchet granularity is noted at the center of the reverse as made.

A series of different experimental compositions for the five-cent denomination was evaluated during the year including pure nickel, 75% nickel with 25% copper, 50% nickel with 50% copper, and 33% nickel with 67% copper. All tested compositions evidently failed to positively impress Mint personnel because the standard composition of 25% nickel with 75% copper was retained and is still being used at the Mint for nickel coinage production.

We reiterate our suggestion the collecting one example of each *die* used to strike pattern five cent pieces may be a worthwhile idea for you. This present catalogue will give you many opportunities—a delightful combination of varieties plus quality. In the future it would be our pleasure at American Numismatic Rarities to personally work with your "want list" to help you track down needed pieces. We dare say that our numismatic staff and consultants (including Andy Pollock) have had just about as much experience with pattern coins as any other group of people on the planet!

Extremely Rare J-380 Pattern Half Dime
Nickel Alloy

(2x photo)

1016 1864 pattern half dime. J-380, P-448. Rarity-8. Proof-66 (NGC). Nickel. Reeded edge. Regular-issue dies. Attractive golden toning. The wreath motif displays surprising sharpness, with even the tassels showing bold delineation. Possibly from the Proof set in nickel offered by the Chapman brothers in their 1906 sale of the Harlan P. Smith Collection. King Farouk owned an example (possibly the same as that previously owned by Smith) which was offered in Sotheby's "Palace Collection" Sale of 1954.

Among patterns of *silver denominations* struck as numismatic delicacies, those in nickel alloy are exceedingly rare in comparison to copper and aluminum impressions. Generally—but not the case here—the hard nickel alloy did not take the die impression very well, and many areas show extensive weakness. Perhaps this coin was made with great care for a very *special* customer!

Rare 1871 J-1069 Pattern Half Dime

1017 1871 "Indian Princess" pattern half dime. J-1069, P-1205. Rarity-7. Proof-64 RB (PCGS). Copper. Reeded Edge. Obverse with Longacre's celebrated "Indian Princess" design. Regular-issue type reverse. The obverse is about 50% mint red fading to blue and violet. The reverse is mostly blue and violet with hints of fiery mint brilliance. A very rare variety with a surviving population estimated at no more than a dozen pieces.

James B. Longacre was "six feet under" by 1871, having breathed his last on January 1, 1869. However, his legacy was continued with this attractive Indian Princess motif, which was not used for pattern coinage during his lifetime. We have located no contemporary mention that Gobrecht's Liberty Seated design (created in 1835 and first used for coinage on the silver dollar of 1836) was intended to be replaced by the Mint in 1871 or any other year around this time. However, if this had been done, this entry is one of the more attractive of the era and might have been a good candidate.

Suggestion for *The Gobrecht Journal:* Why not consider publishing an article on the variations of Miss Liberty, seated, that were used on pattern coins after 1836?

Brilliant 1868 "Postage Currency" Dime

(2x photo)

1018 1868 "Postage Currency" pattern dime. J-646, P-718. Rarity-7+. Proof-64 (PCGS). Aluminum. Plain edge. Obverse with a shield and inscription EXCHANGED FOR U.S. NOTES. Reverse with a wreath similar to the regular-issue type, but including the date and a six-pointed star. Mostly brilliant surfaces exhibit a scattering of spots, predominantly at the peripheries. Only a tiny handful of examples exist, two of which are permanently impounded in the Smithsonian Institution.

Q. David Bowers, in the soon-to-be-published 8th edition of Judd, relates that the date 1868 was due to a die sinker's error, and that the actual date of mintage was 1863. The information is from the excellent research of David Cassel, a consultant to Bowers and others working on this extensive project, who has made the 1863 (usual date on the patterns, cf. J-325 and following) Postage Currency issues a research specialty.

Popular "Standard Silver" 10¢

(2x photo)

1019 **1869 "Standard Silver" pattern dime. J-696, P-775. Rarity-5. Proof-64 (NGC).** Silver. Reeded edge. Liberty Head with cap on obverse. The reverse has the denomination in a wreath with STANDARD SILVER above. Brilliant and attractive with a whisper of pale gold at the borders.

The presently offered piece is part of the extensive series of "STANDARD SILVER" patterns coined in 1869 and 1870. The intent of the Mint was to use coins of this type to replace paper Fractional Currency issues that had been placed in circulation beginning in the Civil War years. The coins were to be composed of 0.900 fine silver alloy, but were to be of reduced weight so as to discourage hoarding. The new 8th edition of the Judd book gives much worthwhile information about the interesting Standard Silver patterns which, of course, were not *standard* at all—but were anomalous.

Rare 1869 Pattern 10¢
"Standard Silver" in Copper
J-704, Rarity-7

(2x photo)

1020 **1869 "Standard Silver" pattern dime. J-704, P-783. Rarity-7. Proof-65 RD (NGC).** Copper. Reeded edge. A high degree of lustre graces frosty red motifs and evenly mirrored fields. The reverse displays a nuance of rich violet iridescence on the high points of the wreath. A lovely gem Proof example of the Standard Silver issues, here a ten cent piece is struck in copper.

The obverse features a finely rendered portrait of Liberty to right unadorned tiara in hair, hair in bun behind and above tiara, other tresses flowing freely beneath tiara to her shoulder. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA arcs above and around Liberty, while IN GOD WE TRUST adorns a fanciful ribbon beneath her bust. The OD in GOD is broadly repunched. On the reverse the design has a small central wreath with laurel as the left sprig and oak as the right, STANDARD SILVER arcs above the wreath, 10 CENTS on two lines within the wreath, date horizontally below wreath.

Liberty Head "Standard Silver" 10¢

(2x photo)

1021 **1869 "Standard Silver" pattern dime. J-708, P-787. Rarity-5. Proof-63 (NGC).** Silver. Reeded Edge. Liberty is wearing a head band on the obverse. The reverse features "10 CENTS" in an oak and laurel wreath with STANDARD SILVER above. Essentially brilliant surfaces with hints of gold at the rims.

The Standard Silver patterns of this era comprise hundreds of different die combinations, metals, and edge style variations. However, the assembly of a complete collection of *dies* is a challenge that can be address by just about anyone—interesting, worthwhile, and affordable. Our present sale will launch you in this direction!

Gem Proof 1870 10¢
Judd-833, High Rarity-6

(2x photo)

1022 **1870 pattern dime. J-833, P-923. Rarity-6+. Proof-65 RB (PCGS).** Copper. Reeded edge. The obverse features William Barber's Liberty Seated motif. The reverse is the "cereal wreath" type featured on regular-issue dimes of the date. Bursts of lively mint red in the recessed areas blend warmly strong violet iridescence. Sharply struck and aesthetically appealing. A beautiful Liberty Seated design variation in an extraordinary state of preservation. This attractive design is attributed to William Barber. A beautiful coin by all standards.

Barber's Seated Liberty motif is a fanciful portrait of Liberty, seated and facing left, hair tied back with a ribbon, left hand holding an olive branch, right hand resting on a partially hidden federal shield with LIBERTY on a scroll, a liberty and Phrygian cap in the background, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA arcs above and around Liberty, the date appears below.

Scarce 1870 "Standard Silver" 10¢

(2x photo)

1023 **1870 "Standard Silver" pattern dime. J-849, P-956. Rarity-5+. Proof-62 (PCGS).** Silver. Reeded edge. Liberty with a head band on obverse. The reverse has the date and denomination centered in a wreath with STANDARD above. Wisps of steel blue iridescence complement pewter gray surfaces. Hints of gold can be seen at the obverse border.

Elusive 1877 "Sailor Head" 10¢

(2x photo)

1024 **1877 "Sailor Head" pattern dime. J-1498, P-1651. Rarity-6+. Proof-64 BN (PCGS).** Copper. Reeded edge. Obverse with William Barber's "Sailor Head" version of Liberty facing left. The reverse is the regular-issue wreath design. Perhaps 50% mint red with blushes and splashes of blue and violet iridescence.

The date 1877 is "magic" in numismatics, and few are the market appearances of patterns struck in this year. Here is a remarkable opportunity, it would seem!

The Sailor Head motif first appeared on pattern trade dollars of 1873 (J-1276 and others), and, modified by adding a ribbon, on 20-cent pieces of 1875, and is very similar in style to the Liberty Head on Dana Bickford's pattern eagle minted in 1874 (see Judd 1373). Walter Breen opined that the design may have been inspired by Queen Victoria's "Young Head" coinage, never mind that the good monarch was never a sailor in the classic sense, but only by her status as a passenger on the royal yacht.

Actually, the head, with a *tiara,* not a cap, does not even fancifully resemble anything a sailor might wear, not even in *H.M.S. Pinafore* or *Show Boat.* Presumably, the peak of the tiara resembles at quick glance, and perhaps after consuming a pint of grog, the upturned rim of a sailor's cap.

Rare 1879 Pattern "Morgan" Dime

(2x photo)

1025 **1879 pattern dime. Judd-1586, P-1779. Rarity-6+. Proof-63 CAM (PCGS).** Silver. Reeded edge. The obverse features Morgan's familiar (if somewhat smaller) head of Liberty with UNITED STATES OF AMERICA arcing around, and with date below bust. The reverse has a "Cereal" wreath (wheat, corn, cotton, and tobacco), just open at top, around beaded circle, ONE / DIME at center in two lines, E PLURIBUS UNUM arcs above, 13 stars curve below, the rightmost star shows definite repunching Frosty motifs and mirror fields show a touch of deep golden toning. A lovely piece for the assigned grade, with eye appeal that far exceeds its small size. This ever-popular pattern type sees steady support from Morgan dollar enthusiasts and pattern specialists alike, and we expect that same support will be evident when the present piece takes its turn at the auction block.

Famous 1875 "Sailor Head" 20¢

(2x photo)

1026 **1875 "Sailor Head" pattern 20¢. J-1392, P-1535. Rarity-6. Proof-64 CAM (NGC).** Silver. Plain edge. Frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields exhibit pale, even champagne highlights. An attractive example of William Barber's popular design type, referred to as the "Sailor Head" by numismatists. Walter Breen once noted that Barber's design profile resembled the portrait on Queen Victoria's "Young Head" coinage. A popular design type, denomination, and grade combination for your bidding pleasure.

The obverse design has William Barber's "Sailor Head" bust of Liberty to left, hair tied back in a bun with two ribbon ends. Liberty's tiara with LIBERTY upon it, and an ornate spray at the front of the coronet. Thirteen six-pointed stars around, date below. The reverse features a fancy federal shield at center, radiant spray at top, olive leaves and arrows at bottom, hollow 20 at center of shield. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA arches around the shield, CENTS below the shield.

Rare 1875 "Liberty at the Seashore" 20¢

(2x photo)

1027 1875 "Seashore" pattern 20-cent piece. J-1397, P-1540, Rarity-7+. Proof-64 RB (PCGS). Copper. Plain edge. The obverse features a Miss Liberty sitting by the seashore with a side-wheel steamship in the background. The denomination on the reverse is expressed both as "1/5 OF A DOLLAR" and "TWENTY CENTS" Perhaps 50% faded mint red with blushes of pink and blue in the remaining areas.

The obverse motif has long been an object of mirth. Although the sails are fully billowed towards the bow of the boat, the fumes are curiously trailing to the rear; something which many have pointed out as defying the laws of physics. The present design proves that art can be at odds with science, but still achieve a successful aesthetic affect.

The idea of Miss Liberty by the sea, facing westward, is derived from the trade dollar of 1873 and related patterns, in which she is gazing toward China, where such coins were destined to be used. In the 1870s the majority of side-wheel steamers on ocean (but not river) routes carried auxiliary sails which were used when trade winds and other breezes were available.

The study of ships depicted on American coins and banknotes offers an opportunity to combine numismatic knowledge with maritime information. It will be soon noted that the twain often miss each other—and that many ships shown on tokens and coins (less so on bills) are illogical—prime examples being the "Webster" issues in the Hard Times token series.

Gem Proof 1869 Silver Pattern 25¢
"Standard Silver" Issue

1028 1869 "Standard Silver" pattern quarter. J-728, P-809. Rarity-6+. Proof-66 (NGC). Silver. Plain edge. The obverse depicts a draped bust of Liberty to viewer's right, loose, ribbon reading LIBERTY in hair, queue above the ribbon, loose, flowing tresses below, unadorned tiara at her forehead. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA arcs above and around Liberty, IN GOD WE TRUST on banner below bust. The reverse has STANDARD SILVER above an open wreath of oak and laurel, 25 / CENTS within wreath on two lines, date on straight line below wreath. Robust rose and pale golden iridescence grace the frosty motifs and mirrored fields of this lovely silver pattern quarter dollar. A scarce and popular issue, part of the "standard silver" pattern issues also made for dimes and half dollars of the date. An attractive pattern in every sense of the word.

Gem Proof CAM 1869 Quarter Rarity
"Standard Silver" Issue in Aluminum

(2x photo)

1029 1869 "Standard Silver" pattern quarter. Judd-732, P-813. Rarity-7. Proof-66 CAM (PCGS). Aluminum. Plain edge. Obverse and reverse types as described for J-728, P-809 above. A lovely cameo Proof example of the type, this with frosted motifs and mirrored fields forming a light but distinct contrast. The same "standard silver" design as the preceding lot, but here struck in aluminum (which was a more precious metal than silver at the time). Rare and important, as can be said for *any* pattern ranked Rarity-7 or higher! Sure to cause a stir when it takes its place on the auction block, as much for its rarity as for its attractive presentation.

1030 1870 "Standard Silver" pattern quarter. J-888, P-987. Rarity-5+. Proof-63 (NGC). Silver. Reeded edge. Obverse with capped Liberty Head facing right. Reverse with the date and denomination centered in a wreath with STANDARD above. Sharply struck with nicely reflective fields. Both surfaces are essentially brilliant with just a hint of gold.

Impressive 1870 "Standard Silver" 25¢

1031 1870 "Standard" pattern quarter. J-894, P-1001. Rarity-5+. Proof-64 (PCGS). Silver. Reeded edge. Obverse with diademed Liberty Head facing right. Reverse with the date and denomination centered in a wreath, with STANDARD above. Steel gray surfaces

exhibit golden brown and steel blue highlights. A prize for the numismatic connoisseur.

Rare J-921 "Standard Silver" Pattern 25¢

1032 1870 "Standard Silver" pattern quarter. J-921, P-1025. Rarity-7. Proof-62 BN (NGC). Copper. Plain edge. Obverse with Liberty wearing a head band facing right. Reverse with the denomination in a wreath, and with STANDARD SILVER and the date above and below respectively. Chocolate brown with vivid blue and violet highlights. Traces of original mint red can still be seen on both surfaces despite the BN designation on the NGC label. Close examination reveals a scattering of tiny spots and flecks, not a coin for the connoisseur, but nevertheless a major rarity that has its place.

We've been hearing nice things about the Numismatic Conservation Service, and although we have not sampled their talents first-hand, it just might be the case that this coin would be worth sending there. Quite a few *copper* patterns are in serious need of improvement due to careless handling.

Gem Proof 1872 "Amazonian" Quarter Pattern

J-1195, Rarity-7

Finest Graded by PCGS

1033 1872 pattern quarter. William Barber's "Amazonian" design. J-1195, Pollock-1335. Rarity-7. Proof-65 (PCGS). Silver. Reeded edge. A truly splendid gem Proof example of one of the most desirable and beautiful of all pattern coinage design types. Frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields form a heavy cameo contrast, though such is not noted on the PCGS holder. The obverse is mainly vivid electric blue with splashes of rich violet iridescence in and around the central motifs, while the reverse affords a burst of bright gold which gives way to concentric rings of violet, deep blue, and electric blue. Barber's bare-breasted Liberty and her familiar American bald eagle dominate the obverse design, while another interpretation of the eagle is the crowning glory of the reverse design. Just *three* examples of this rarity have been certified by PCGS, with the present specimen being the finest certified by that firm. If you are currently in active pursuit of the finest patterns available to today's collecting community, you will do well to consider this coin. It offers an outstanding combination of beauty, rarity, and history, and would easily be a highlight in any pattern coin collection.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Obverse: Barber's depiction of Seated Liberty to left, flowing hair and Phrygian cap atop her head. Her left arm rests on a tilted federal shield, her left hand holds a broad sword that cuts diagonally across the shield. Her right arm is extended, her right hand atop the head of a bald eagle, partly hidden by her legs. Seven stars are to her left, six stars are behind her, the date is below.

Reverse: Central eagle motif, the eagle facing left, beak open and wings partly spread. The eagle's left talons hold the top of a federal shield, with a ribbon draped diagonally across the shield that reads IN GOD WE TRUST. The eagle's right talons clasp three arrows, while the foot and shield rest on a small torse. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA arches above and around the central motif, with a six-pointed star at either end of the legend, and with QUAR. DOL. curving below.

Popular Pattern 1859 Half Dollar
Davis' "French Head of Liberty"

1034 **1859 pattern half dollar. J-237, P-293. Rarity-4. Proof-64 (PCGS).** Silver. Reeded edge. Obverse with Longacre's Liberty Head. Reverse with HALF DOLLAR centered in a cereal wreath. Mirror fields and frosty motifs display a heavy blend of iridescent violet, electric blue, and dusky rose. A thoroughly attractive design type.

R. Coulton Davis is said to have referred to the obverse motif as the "French Head of Liberty," nomenclature that seems to be suitable enough and which has been utilized here and there in numismatic descriptions, including above. Cornelius Vermuele, in *Numismatic Art in America,* believed that the design was inspired by the figure of Apollo Belvedere at the Vatican.

The reverse was designated as the "cereal wreath" by Mint Director James Ross Snowden, the appellation having arisen from a suggestion proffered by Harold Newlin, a local numismatist of importance and later renown (in 1883 his classic work on silver half dimes was published).

Longacre's 1859 "French Liberty Head" 50¢
J-237, perhaps after "Apollo Belvedere"

1035 **1859 pattern half dollar. J-237, P-293. Rarity-4. Proof-63 (PCGS).** Silver. Reeded edge. Obverse head of Liberty by James B. Longacre. The reverse wreath is similar in style to the design first employed on half dime and dime reverse dies beginning in 1860. The central areas are mostly brilliant, deepening to an attractive champagne shade at the borders. The reverse, in particular, shows pronounced cameo contrast. The obverse field has die finishing lines as made; something likely to be misinterpreted as hairlines by an uninformed collector.

1859 Liberty Seated Pattern 50¢ in Silver
Inartistic(?) Design by Paquet
Exceedingly Rare

(2x photo)

1036 **1859 Paquet pattern half dollar. J-247, P-286. Rarity-7+. Proof-64 (PCGS).** Silver. Reeded edge. Obverse with a seated figure of Liberty holding a shield and fasces. The reverse features the denomination HALF DOLLAR centered in a "cereal wreath" of a style virtually identical to that featured on half dimes and dimes beginning in 1860. The obverse has vivid bull's eye toning in vivid shades of pink, blue, violet, and gold. The reverse is about 50% brilliant with blushes of champagne in the remaining areas. Probably no more than three or four examples could be accounted for today.

Both the obverse and reverse designs of the variety were created by Anthony Paquet, who joined the Mint staff in 1858. When we reviewed the text of the forthcoming Judd 8th edition we noted that quite a bit of information is given regarding Paquet's work on this and the related 1859 pattern $20. On close inspection the figure of Miss Liberty is seen to be rather clumsily styled. However, its artistic attributes present or absent as per your own feelings, this silver striking has unquestioned status and appeal as one of the rarest items of this important pattern year.

Desirable 1869 "Standard Silver" 50¢

J-743 Pattern in Silver

1037 **1869 "Standard Silver" pattern half dollar. J-743, P-824. Rarity-6+. Proof-63 CAM (PCGS).** Silver. Plain edge. Obverse with capped Liberty Head facing right. Reverse with the denomination in a wreath, and with STANDARD SILVER and the date above and below respectively. The central areas are brilliant changing to gold peripherally. The frosty devices beautifully complement the reflective fields. Nice eye appeal for the grade. Lots of good old-fashioned value here!

Choice Proof 1869 Half Dollar

"Standard Silver" Issue in Aluminum

1038 **1869 "Standard Silver" pattern half dollar. J-752, P-835. Rarity-7. Proof-64 (NGC).** Aluminum. Plain edge. Obverse and reverse types similar to J-728, P-809 as described above. Rich reflective silver gray fields and lightly frosted motifs. A few faint hairlines account for the grade, but still a pleasing example of a rare pattern issue from the "Standard Silver" series. Its rarity speaks for itself, as the bidding activity will no doubt prove.

Rare 1871 Pattern 50¢

Judd-1112, Low Rarity-7

Longacre's Seated Indian Princess Design

(2x photo)

1039 **1871 pattern half dollar. STANDARD. J-1112, P-1248. Rarity-7-. Proof-66 RB (NGC).** Copper. Reeded edge. Obverse with Longacre's "Indian Princess" motif. The reverse has 50 CENTS in an agricultural wreath, consisting of wheat, corn, and cotton, with STANDARD above. Sultry red iridescence tempered with violet and rose, with the reverse toning highlights heavier than those on the obverse. A rarity for the STANDARD design series, with Longacre's popular Indian Princess motif on the obverse. Rare and attractive, and certain to cause a bidding stir as a result.

Longacre's Seated Indian Princess has a head style remarkably similar to that on the $3 gold issues of the era. Liberty is seated on globe and facing left, breasts bared, her left hand resting on a globe that is encircled by a broad ribbon that reads LIBERTY, two flags behind her, one of those with 13 stars, her foot and the globe resting on a small a patch of earth, her right hand holds a liberty pole that is topped by a Phrygian cap, 13 stars around, date.

Copper 1871 Liberty Seated Indian Princess 50¢
Judd-1115, Rarity-7

(2x photo)

1040 1871 pattern half dollar. J-1115, P-1215. Rarity-7. Proof-64 RB (NGC). Copper. Reeded edge. Obverse with Longacre's "Indian Princess" motif. The reverse has the perched eagle design featured on regular issue half dollars. Deep red and brown with splashes of iridescent gold, violet, and electric blue in the recessed areas. A pleasing example of a rare and desirable design type. An important pattern issue, and a coin that will no doubt enjoy a position of prominence in an advanced pattern cabinet.

James Barton Longacre's popular Indian Princess pattern design has Liberty seated left on globe, her head near a replication of that found on the three-dollar gold design type of Longacre. A ribbon that reads LIBERTY is draped across the globe. Liberty's left hand rests upon the globe, and her right hand holds a staff topped by a Phrygian cap. Two flags are behind Liberty, one of those with 13 stars. Thirteen six-pointed stars surround Liberty, the Phrygian cap between stars five and six, and Liberty's head between six and seven.

Impressive Gem Proof Copper 1875 Pattern 50¢
Judd-1418, High Rarity-7

(2x photo)

1041 1875 pattern half dollar. J-1418, P-1561. Rarity-7+. Proof-65 RD (PCGS). Copper. Reeded edge. Obverse and reverse designs are the types employed to coin regular-issue half dollars during the year. A splendid gem Proof with frosty motifs and mirrored fields. Bright red-orange surfaces have an appeal that immediately calls to mind Proof gold coinage of the era. A few faint obverse flecks are noted, the most prominent of these on Miss Liberty's arm. A hint of electric blue shows on the reverse. Rare, appealing, and sure to take a place of honor in its next owner's collection.

Barber's "Liberty Seated" Pattern Dollar
J-1005 in Silver, Gem Proof

1042 **1870 William Barber's Liberty Seated pattern dollar. J-1005, P-1137, Rarity-6. Proof-65 BN (NGC).** Copper. Plain edge. William Barber's "Seated Liberty" motif featured on the obverse was also employed on other denominations of patterns coined during the year, from silver three-cent pieces (an illogical production; see our listing of an example) through half dollars. Barber's depiction shows Miss Liberty facing to the viewer's left, her right hand resting on the top of a shield upon which is a ribbon inscribed LIBERTY (perhaps a precursor of the ribboned shield on Barber's later "Amazon" reverse). A pole emerges from nowhere and apparently is self-supporting; on top of it is a pileus or liberty cap, a nod to patriotism and tradition. She is seated on a bale, catafalque, rock, or something else, the details of which are obscured by excess cloth (she seems to sit upon the folds of her gown above where they fall). Her right hand is simply "there," doing nothing in particular (perhaps it could have held the pole and liberty cap?).

The reverse is the regular-issue silver dollar design. Mostly golden brown and steel gray surfaces, with vivid gold, blue, and violet iridescent highlights. Sharply struck with virtually all design features showing bold definition, including the obverse stars, all of which show their central divisions.

Both thick and thin planchet variants are known. The solitary thin planchet piece recorded in the Pollock reference weighed 333 grains, while the more frequently seen thick planchet piece ranged in weight from about 386 to 392 grains. Unfortunately, the slab prevents us from reporting the planchet weight of the presently offered specimen. Again we suggest that if at least one enlightened certification service would take the time and trouble (which can't be much) to list the weights on coins, it will earn the gratitude of pattern enthusiasts and, quite possibly, their *patronage* (with good bottom-line results!).

Blazing Red 1871 Indian Princess $1

(2x photo)

1043 **1871 Indian Princess "Standard Silver" pattern dollar. J-1142, P-1284. Rarity-7-. Proof-64 RD (PCGS).** Copper. Plain edge. The obverse features James B. Longacre's Indian Princess version of Liberty seated facing left, used posthumously, with 13 stars around and the date below. The reverse has the denomination 1 DOLLAR in a wreath with STANDARD above. A blazing mint red example displaying bold detail definition at virtually all points of the design. Hints of violet iridescence can be seen on both surfaces.

The Indian Princess design first appeared on pattern dollars dated 1870, but the design actually was created nearly two decades earlier in 1852, in sketches created by Longacre for a proposed gold bullion coinage which never came to fruition.

Desirable 1871 Longacre's "Indian Princess" $1
J-1146 in Silver

(2x photo)

1044 1871 Indian Princess pattern dollar. J-1146, P-1288. Rarity-6+. Proof-64 (NGC). Silver. Plain edge. The obverse features Longacre's Indian Princess design, which, as is related above, was first employed for the production of pattern pieces in 1870, but had actually been created nearly two decades earlier by Longacre in 1852. Although artistic merit is in the eyes and mind of the beholder, more than a few people agree that in the "Liberty Seated competition" between the deceased Longacre's work and that of newly appointed chief engraver William Barber, Longacre's motif triumphs.

The reverse of this lovely piece features the regular-issue design. The devices are frosty and the fields are nicely reflective mirrors. Both surfaces are essentially brilliant, with just a hint of champagne iridescence on the high points and at the rims. At least two examples of the variety are impounded in major museum collections.

Exceptional J-1150 Indian Princess $1
Rarity and Beauty Combined

(2x photo)

1045 1871 Indian Princess pattern dollar. J-1150, P-1292. Rarity-7+. Proof-64 (PCGS). Aluminum. Plain edge. The obverse has James B. Longacre's Indian Princess design as described for J-1142 offered above. The reverse features the regular-issue perched eagle design. Sharply struck, with virtually all design features showing full definition. Both surfaces exhibit pearl gray toning. Highly desirable from the dual perspectives of rarity and aesthetic quality. Probably no more than a half dozen examples could be accounted for today.

Miss Liberty, in the form of an Indian princess (with plumed headdress loosely similar to that on Longacre's 1854 Type II gold dollar), is seated on a globe, facing to the viewer's left. Her right hand is holding a pole upon which is a liberty cap, while her left hand rests upon the Arctic ice cap. Behind her are two flags on spearhead-tipped poles, one flag displaying 22 stars.

The reverse illustrates a finely-detailed wreath enclosing 1 DOLLAR. At the top border is the word STANDARD.

Interestingly, this coin bears no clue as to the country of its origin! The inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is nowhere to be found.

1878 Barber Pattern Dollar
J-1554 in Silver
Rarest of a Pattern Trio

1046 1878 pattern dollar by William Barber. J-1554, P-1737. Rarity-7. Proof-63 (NGC). Silver. Reeded edge. Obverse with William Barber's head of Liberty facing left, styled after his 1877 pattern $50 and other productions. The reverse is a perched eagle motif with the national bird holding an olive branch and arrows. Steel gray surfaces exhibit wisps of misty blue and violet iridescence.

Andrew W. Pollock III in his pattern reference recognizes three different varieties of patterns that came under the heading of J-1554; P-1737 (J-1554), as offered here, is the scarcest of the three, and accordingly should be worth a substantial premium for that reason alone.

Outstanding 1878 Goloid Pattern $1
Blazing Copper Impression

(2x photo)

1047 1878 "Goloid" pattern dollar. J-1559, P-1751. Rarity-7+. Proof-64 RB (PCGS). Copper. Reeded edge. Obverse with a Liberty Head motif facing left. Reverse with inscriptions arranged within a ring of stars, Perhaps 50% mint red with wisps and blushes of pink, sea green, and blue. A spot on Miss Liberty's throat will serve to identify this piece in the future. Our cataloguer, Andrew W. Pollock III, was able to account for just five examples in his 1994 pattern reference, one of which is impounded in a permanent museum collection. Worth a generous bid.

While goloid pattern dollar die impressions are encountered with some regularity in goloid and silver alloys, copper (or bronze) impressions are exceedingly rare.

Copper 1878 Pattern Morgan $1

1048 **1878 pattern Morgan dollar. J-1551, P-1726. Rarity-7. Proof-65 RB (NGC).** Copper. Reeded edge. Obverse with Morgan's popular design, as adapted, E PLURIBUS UNUM arcs above Liberty's portrait, date below, stars flanking seven left, six right. The reverse is similar to the adopted design but with three leaves on the branch in the eagle's talon. Fiery deep orange with lively rose, electric blue, and orange toning highlights. A tiny spot is seen in the field near the juncture of Liberty's hair and forehead. A popular pattern issue, or as Dave Bowers noted in his recent update of the Judd pattern reference (July 2003), "Patterns for the Morgan silver dollar (J-1550 to 1553) have always been in demand from collectors of regular silver dollars as a nice 'go-with' for a specialized cabinet." If past performance records are any indication, we expect this attractive gem Proof example of Judd-1551 to draw an impressive amount of bidding activity before this "go-with" finds a place in an advanced Morgan dollar cabinet or specialized pattern collection.

Gem Proof 1878 Goloid Metric $1 Pattern

The Eliasberg Specimen

(2x photo)

1049 **1878 pattern dollar. GOLOID METRIC. J-1563, P-1754. Rarity-6-. Proof-66 (NGC).** Goloid alloy (5.26% gold, 84.74 silver, 10.00 copper). Reeded edge. Metric weight system. Obverse with a head of Liberty to left, Phrygian cap and agricultural flora atop her head. Reverse with UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 100 CENTS, and a starry circle. A splendid gem Proof with frosty motifs and mirrored fields that form a pleasing cameo contrast (though this is not mentioned on the holder). Mainly brilliant silver with whispers of pale champagne iridescence on both sides. An altogether pleasing coin that was deemed suitable for inclusion in the Louis E. Eliasberg Collection, and a coin that will be a highlight in the next collection it adorns.

The goloid alloy consisted of 24 parts silver for every part gold by weight, and several different varieties of pattern goloid dollars were struck circa 1878-1880. The variety offered here is the "metric" weight variety; another variety is known as the "English" variety, with the reverse of that issue bearing the weights at the center in grains rather than grams (as offered in the present specimen).

From Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.'s sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., Collection, May 1996, Lot 287; Earlier from the Chapman Brothers' sale of the' M. A. Brown Collection, April 1897, Lot 64; to J. M. Clapp; Clapp Estate, 1942; to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

1878 Pattern Goloid $1 in Silver
J-1564, Gem Proof

(2x photo)

1050 1878 Goloid pattern dollar. J-1564, P-1755. Rarity-7-. Proof-65 (NGC). Regular silver alloy (90% silver, 10% copper) rather than Goloid as determined by the experts at NGC. Reeded edge. Intermingled pearl gray and golden brown toning with hints of pale blue. The surfaces are nearly flawless, indicating that doting care was exercised by various owners since the time of issue in 1878.

As mentioned elsewhere in this section of the catalogue, goloid alloy, which had approximately equal amounts of gold and silver in terms of prevailing values at the time of issue (i.e. about a half dollar's worth of each), was virtually indistinguishable from silver. It seems likely that standard silver impressions were made for purposes of comparison, so that Congressmen and others would able to see how similar these alloys were to one another, the Mint's way of demonstrating that the entire concept was seriously flawed.

Desirable 1879 Morgan $1 Pattern
J-1611, Low Rarity-7

(2x photo)

1051 1879 pattern Morgan dollar. J-1611, P-1807. Rarity-7-. Proof-65 (NGC). Silver. Reeded edge. The obverse features the regular-issue Morgan dollar design. The eagle motif on the reverse is chiefly unadorned and appears Teutonic or European in nature (similar to certain German Empire and German State issues of the era). A pattern that enjoys unflagging importance owing to its direct tie in with the Morgan dollar series. Frosty motifs and mirrored fields exhibit a mild yet enchanting cameo contrast. A whisper of pale champagne adds to the overall appeal.

Historic 1879 "Goloid Metric" Pattern $1
J-1626 in Goloid Alloy

1052 **1879 "Goloid Metric" pattern dollar. J-1626, P-1822. Rarity-3. Proof-63 (NGC).** Goloid alloy. Reeded edge. Obverse with William Barber's Liberty Head facing left. Reverse with inscriptions centered within a circle of stars. Intermingled pearl gray, gold and blue iridescence enhances both surfaces. A perennial favorite with pattern collectors; historic, classic, and thoroughly worthwhile.

The concept of the goloid alloy was conceived by William Wheeler Hubbell, who believed that a coin having approximately equal proportions of gold and silver, in terms of the monetary values that prevailed at the time, would be useful in eliminating the old rivalry between silver and gold interests. Unfortunately for his scheme, casual examination showed that goloid was virtually indistinguishable from standard silver alloy. Specific gravity tests were required to distinguish between the alloys, and there was no way that a shopkeeper in Peoria or a bartender in Kalamazoo could tell the difference. This was a fatal flaw of certain other alloy schemes in which a precious metal was mixed with a base metal—a prime example being billon (used here and there among patterns, including in the 1792 mixed or "fusible" alloy pattern cent of 1792 and the memorable two-cent patterns of 1836).

Desirable 1880 Metric $1
Struck in Copper

1053 **1880 "Metric" pattern dollar. J-1646, P-1846. Rarity-6-. Proof-64 RD (PCGS).** Copper. Reeded edge. The Liberty Head on the obverse is reminiscent of the motif depicted on the half union ($50) patterns of 1877. The reverse consists of inscriptions and a wreath. The presently offered specimen is a blazing mint red example exhibiting hints of pale violet iridescence. All design features are about as sharp as could be desired. A few tiny spots and flecks are noted, most prominently by Miss Liberty's chin and the first A in AMERICA. Another can be seen following the date.

The Metric dollar was an experimental issue combining silver, gold, and copper in such proportions that the resulting coin would have both an intrinsic value of one dollar and a weight of precisely 25 grams (hence the metric designation). The idea is complicated enough when the inscriptions are read, but, as noted earlier, such an alloy could not be discerned from silver, and thus counterfeiters could make pieces inexpensively.

The idea of striking a coin in copper, but with inscriptions relating to it being made of silver and gold, is absurd—akin to the logic behind the J-1706 pattern five-cent piece offered earlier.

Gem Proof-65 1880 Metric Pattern $1
Quality and Rarity to the Fore

(2x photo)

1054 **1880 "Metric" pattern dollar. J-1649, P-1849. Rarity-7-. Proof-65 RB (PCGS).** Copper. Reeded edge. Similar to J-1646 offered above, but with a different Liberty Head motif on the obverse; on this variety, she is wearing a head band, and her hair is tied in bun. The surfaces are perhaps 30% mint red fading to golden brown. Pink and blue highlights complement both the obverse and reverse. Certainly, among the finest extant examples from a very rare issue.

The motto on this and certain other goloid and related coins of the era, including the $4 Stellas, is DEO EST GLORIA. It is not known if this was ever seriously considered as a replacement for IN GOD WE TRUST, though the answer is surely in the records of the Treasury Department in the National Archives.

Pattern 1885 Morgan $1
Experimental Lettered Edge

1055 1885 pattern $1. Judd-1747, P-1959. Rarity-6. Proof-60. Silver. Experimental Lettered and Stars edge. Pale champagne with dusky highlights. Perhaps lightly cleaned long ago, and with a small toning spot in Liberty's tresses. The rare and popular type with E PLURIBUS UNUM and 13 stars on the edge. A tiny rim bruise is noted at 9:00 relative to the obverse and is noted for accuracy, as it makes little visual impact. Finer than our description implies, and worthy of in person examination before bidding judgment is passed.

Obverse: From the standard circulation strike die of the date.

Reverse: From the standard circulation strike die of the date.

Edge: E followed by a single star, PLURIBUS followed by a single star, UNUM followed by 11 stars.

1872 "Indian Princess" Commercial $1
Gem Proof in Silver
A "Find" for the Pattern Specialist

(2x photo)

1056 1872 "Commercial" pattern dollar, Indian Princess design by Longacre. J-1212, P-1352. Rarity-6+. Proof-65 (NGC). Silver, Reeded edge. Obverse with James Barton Longacre's Indian Princess design, beautiful then and beautiful now—one of the all-time favorite motifs in the pattern series.

Reverse with COMMERCIAL DOLLAR inscription, cornucopias, wreath, and other elements, including the curious use of the rejected GOD OUR TRUST motto. Both surfaces have warm gunmetal-gray toning, with delicate intermingled gold, blue, violet, and lilac iridescence. Certainly among the finest extant examples of this rare variety.

"Commercial" dollar patterns of 1871 and 1872 (as here) are forerunners of the trade dollar patterns which were coined predominantly in 1873, although some are also dated 1872. Commercial or trade dollars were intended for markets in the Orient where Mexican dollars were then very popular and were the coins of choice. Unfortunately, at that time for U.S. interests, American merchants had to pay a premium to get the Mexican dollars, and accordingly, it was thought that a U.S. coin, if accepted by Oriental trading partners, would result in a considerable savings for U.S. importers. The trade dollar was a stunning success, served its purpose well, but was terminated by the most illogical of American traditions: *politics*. The entire story is told in detail in Q. David Bowers' 1992 study, *Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States,* long out of print, but available from numismatic and antiquarian booksellers if you are fortunate enough to find a listing.

The "father" of the trade dollar was John J. Knox, prominent in the U.S. Treasury Department and central to the issuance of currency. Knox was a numismatist of some accomplishment, but details of his cabinet are not known to us.

Superlative 1873 J-1278 Trade $1

Marvelous quality!

Enticing rarity!

(2x photo)

1057 1873 Liberty Head pattern trade dollar. J-1278, P-1420. Rarity-7+. Proof-66 RD (PCGS). Copper. Reeded edge. Obverse with a diademed head of Liberty facing left, an early version of William Barber's incorrectly nicknamed "Sailor Head" motif, in this instance lacking a downward ribbon in the hair. The reverse displays a wreath and extensive inscriptions.

The present coin is a superlative gem example displaying sharp frosty devices and nicely reflective fields. Both the obverse and reverse are fiery mint red, with just a hint of natural iridescence on the reverse. Virtually as nice as the day it was made! No more than a dozen examples of the variety are thought to exist, and of these, two are impounded in major museum collections. As we mentioned earlier, finding *high quality* copper patterns is a challenge in itself, as most of those of higher denominations have been cleaned, retoned, or worse (King Farouk was said to have *polished* his copper patterns; for shame!). Accordingly, the present piece is not only important for its rarity, but its marvelous quality may be an even more compelling reason to bid liberally.

1873 Gold $1 Copper Impression

J-1331, Regular Proof Dies

Rarity-7+

(2x photo)

1058 1873 pattern gold dollar. J-1331, P-1475. Rarity-7+. Proof-64 BN (PCGS). Copper. Reeded edge. Regular-issue obverse and reverse dies. Close 3 in date. Chocolate toning with vivid blue, violet, and gold highlights. Attractive overall and very desirable, despite a tiny spot on Liberty's cheek that will serve to distinguish this specimen from all other examples. Possibly from a Proof set in copper, as other regular-issue denominations were also struck in copper during the year. Pollock was only able to account for three or four different examples in his 1994 pattern reference.

It may be a long time until another J-1331 appears in one of our sales. We encourage your attention and a corresponding enthusiastic bid!

Rare 1865 $2.50 Struck in Copper

A Classic Rarity

(2x photo)

1059 1865 pattern quarter eagle. J-439, P-512. Rarity-7. Proof-65 RB (PCGS). Copper. Reeded edge. Regular issue obverse and reverse designs from Proof-finish dies. The obverse displays about 50% mint color with blushes of blue and violet. The reverse is chocolate brown with pale blue highlights. A very rare variety with no more than a dozen examples thought to exist in all numismatics. Often it is the case that several years pass between auction appearances. This offering presents a very important opportunity for the aware advanced pattern coin or gold specialist—a coin combining both quality and extreme rarity.

Possibly from a copper Proof set dated 1865 and produced in this era, but not necessarily in the year indicated. The rarity of 1865 half eagles, eagles, and double eagles in copper suggests that some of the 1865 copper quarter eagle Proofs were distributed as separate items, rather than in sets. There was no "testing" or "pattern" purpose for making such pieces, and thus they can be enumerated among the numismatic delicacies, or, per Don Taxay, "pieces de caprice," produced during the 1860s.

1872 Barber's "Amazonian" $3 Pattern
J-1236 in Copper
Rare Design for a $3 Coin

(2x photo)

1060 1872 Barber's "Amazonian" three-dollar pattern. J-1236, P-1378. Rarity-6+. Proof-65 BN (NGC). Copper. Reeded edge. Obverse with William Barber's capped head of Liberty facing left, sometimes called the "Amazonian" type, but this nomenclature is better used for the related silver issues (quarter, half, and dollar). Reverse with an eagle supporting a shield with its left claw as used on the aforementioned silver Amazonian issues, and by extension itself called the "Amazonian reverse."

The specialist in pattern $3 coins will find little variety in the designs, for the vast majority of pieces are off-metal strikings of the regular motifs. At last, in 1872 the "Amazonian" – a distinctively different design by Barber — is encountered, adding spice to the smorgasbord. While it would be nice to have a *gold* impression of this die pair, there is but one gold coin known, leaving copper (as here) and aluminum strikings available now and then, but not very often.

The specimen we offer displays mostly golden brown surfaces exhibiting pale blue and sea green iridescent highlights. Considerable amounts of faded red can be seen at the borders despite the BN designation on the NGC label.

Gratitude is extended to Saul Teichman who researched the "Amazonian" name and who could not find any reference to the term in the present context prior to 1890, in which year the term appeared in the sale catalogue of the Lorin G. Parmelee Collection. It is supposed the moniker was created by either Harlan P. Smith or David U. Proskey, both of whom catalogued the sale.

Teichman, one of the most careful of modern researchers, was essential to the production of the new 8th edition of the Judd pattern book, and he is appropriately credited on the cover.

Rare Gold 1866 Merriam Lincoln $3 "Pattern"

(2x photo)

1061 1866 Merriam Private $3 pattern. J-Appendix C, P-5080. Rarity-7+. MS-60. Gold. Broadly reeded edge. Obverse with Merriam's stoic bust of Lincoln to right, GOD AND OUR COUNTRY arch above, small date below bust. Broad rim with tiny triangular dentils. The reverse has an ornate wreath, viewer's left branch oak, right branch olive, Roman numeral III at the center. Artful curved designs support a six-pointed star at the top of the wreath. Broad rim with thin, elongated dentils. Satiny and lustrous yellow gold with a touch of olive iridescence. The motif on this particular piece is attributed to medalist Joseph H. Merriam, who apparently was most active as a die engraver in the 1860s. Reverse is said to have been made at the Mint for production of pattern three-cent pieces, though this is still considered doubtful. In fact, Q. David Bowers considers these varieties to be numismatic fantasies, as do many other collectors and specialists. That fact notwithstanding, many pattern specialists have adopted this issue into the mainstream pattern series. A pleasing example of the issue, one that will thoroughly satisfy its new owner.

Extremely Rare J-1338 Pattern $5
Barber's Liberty Head Motif
"Amazonian" Reverse

(2x photo)

1062 1873 Liberty Head pattern half eagle. J-1338, P-1482. Rarity-7+. Proof-64 (NGC). Copper, gilt. Reeded edge. Obverse with diademed head of Liberty facing right. Reverse with an eagle supporting a shield with its left claw, similar in style to the eagle featured on "Amazonian" silver and gold issues of the preceding year. Brilliant, reflective fields. The eagle's feather details show bold definition. A prize for the advanced specialist.

Strikings from these dies are known in gold and aluminum as well as copper; all of which are considered to be rarities of the highest order. Our highly esteemed consultant, Andrew W. Pollock III, was only able to account for five examples of the variety in his 1994 book on patterns.

Extremely Rare 1875 Copper J-1441 $5
From Regular Proof Dies

(2x photo)

1063 1875 pattern half eagle. J-1441, P-1585. Rarity-7+. Proof-64 RB (PCGS). Copper. Reeded edge. Regular-issue obverse and reverse Proof dies. A lovely example having chocolate brown toning with violet highlights at the centers gradually changing to faded red at the borders. Virtually all design features are defined to full advantage including Miss Liberty's hair details and the obverse stars. The eagle's feathers and claws are all sharp.

Presumably from a complete Proof set in copper, as copper strikings of other denominations of the year are known to the numismatic community. The year 1875 is very special in American gold coinage, as most of the *regular* Philadelphia Mint denominations are great rarities, the double eagle excepted. The present specimen will appeal strongly to the pattern specialist and has further desirability to the gold aficionado.

Extremely Rare 1861 Pattern $10
J-285 in Copper
GOD OUR TRUST

(2x photo)

1064 1861 "God Our Trust" pattern eagle. J-285, P-340. Rarity-7. Proof-64 BN (PCGS). Copper. Reeded edge. Obverse and reverse similar to regular-issue types, save for the motto above the eagle's head. Bronzed reddish brown, *as struck*, in the manner of mint medals of the era and various other 1861-1863 "God Our Trust" patterns seen. Andrew Pollock was only able to account for four or five examples of the variety in his 1994 pattern reference.

Ex Bowers and Ruddy Galleries sale of the Garrett Collection, Part II, March 1980, Lot 1087. Earlier from W. Elliot Woodward's sale of the Dohrmann Collection, March 1882. The Dohrmann collection included a very significant group of patterns and represents a very desirable pedigree.

Exceedingly Rare 1861 Pattern $10
J-287 in Copper
GOD OUR TRUST

1065 1861 "God Our Trust" pattern eagle. J-287, P-342. Rarity-6+. Proof-63 BN (PCGS). Copper. Reeded edge. Bronzed surfaces *as issued*. Obverse and reverse types, similar to the regular-issue designs except for the motto, GOD OUR TRUST. This is Pollock's "Low Date" variety.

The coin we offer displays intermingled chocolate brown and golden brown surfaces with faint blue and violet highlights. Minor reverse spotting is probably all that prevented PCGS from assigning a considerably higher grade (might careful conservation *lift* the grade?).

Andrew Pollock could trace only one example of the presently offered die combination and assigned the Rarity-8 rating. The Rarity-6+ figure above is for the combined rarity of both P-342 (Low Date) and 344 (High Date), which Pollock considered to be distinct varieties.

The motto GOD OUR TRUST was considered in the 1860s, but was abandoned (or so it seemed at the time) in favor of IN GOD WE TRUST, the adopted version which first appeared on circulating coinage on the two-cent piece of 1864.

Years later in 1871, GOD OUR TRUST reappeared on the "Commercial Dollar" reverse (see earlier offering here). We cannot help but wonder if John Jay Knox, an accomplished numismatist, suggested its use.

1863 "God Our Trust" Pattern $10
J-350 in Copper

(2x photo)

1066 1863 "God Our Trust" pattern eagle. J-350, P-422. Rarity-6. Proof-64 BN (PCGS). Copper. Reeded edge. Obverse and reverse similar to the regular-issue types, but with the motto GOD OUR TRUST on a ribbon above the eagle's head, similar in style to the regular-issue design beginning in 1866. The surfaces are bronzed reddish or chestnut brown in color, *as made,* in the style of mint medals and many other "God Our Trust" pattern half dollars and eagles coined during the 1861-1863 period. Sharply struck and attractive.

The introductory material in the new Judd 8th edition delineates the formula used at the Mint for the bronzing process—used on many medals of the 1860s and on some patterns, in the latter category most notably on certain issues of 1861-1863.

Important Liberty Head Copper Pattern $10

(2x photo)

1067 1869 Liberty Head pattern eagle. J-779, P-864. Rarity-7+. Proof-65 BN (PCGS). Copper. Reeded edge. The Liberty Head motif on the obverse is reminiscent of the design featured on nickel three-cent pieces of the era and is by the same engraver, James B. Longacre (in this instance posthumous as he died on New Year's Day 1869). The appearance of this design on a $10 coin is somewhat startling to the eye, perhaps analogous to seeing an Indian Head cent design on a $10.

The reverse has the regular-issue $10 design of the era, probably from a Proof die used to strike regular issues. Both surfaces are mostly golden to chocolate brown, with faint pink and blue highlights. Traces of faded red can be seen at the obverse periphery.

Impressions from these dies are listed in aluminum as well as copper. All are exceedingly rare. No gold strikings have yet come to the attention of numismatic researchers.

Rare 1876 Copper Pattern $10
Impression from Regular Dies

(2x photo)

1068 1876 pattern eagle, J-1486, P-1639. Rarity-7+. Proof-63 RB (PCGS). Copper. Reeded edge. Regular-issue obverse and reverse dies. Perhaps 10% faded mint red changing to a delightful tan shade. Blushes of pink and blue iridescence complement both surfaces. An exceedingly rare variety that has only appeared in a handful of auction sales in recent decades, and worthy of a generous bid as such.

While any and all patterns are scarce to rare, and some are very rare, this present coin is so rare that certain of our staff experts have never seen one! As the American Numismatic Rarities "dream team" has catalogued just about any and all rarities in American coinage, this is a rarity comment worth noting.

Presumably from a 1876 copper Proof set, as copper strikings from regular-issue dies are listed for the other denominations coined during the year.

END OF LIVE PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

MAIL BID & INTERNET
AUCTION

THURSDAY AUGUST 7

9:00 pm EST

California Small Denomination Gold: Lots 2001-2126

CALIFORNIA SMALL DENOMINATION GOLD

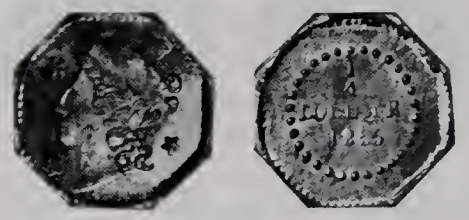
This further offering of California Small Denomination Gold coins will be available for bids via mail or internet. All bids must be received by Thursday, August 7 at 9:00 PM EST. In this special section, collectors and newcomers will discover a superb variety of pieces from both Period One and Period Two. Some are in very high grade, some are lightly circulated, all are appropriate for long-time enthusiasts or those who have recently discovered this exciting series. Examine the lot descriptions carefully and enjoy formulating your bidding strategy! Note: these pieces will be available for lot viewing in Baltimore prior to the Classics Sale and during the ANA Convention. (All photos are 2x.)

2001 **1854 Octagonal 25¢. BG-105. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-64 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Brilliant and lustrous. The editors of the recently published 2nd edition of the Breen-Gillio reference note that at least some specimens of the variety have gold plating on a core of gold, copper, and silver.

Die State I: Upper hair touches back of coronet.

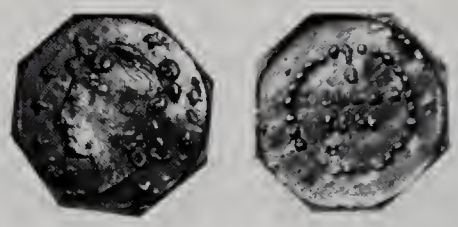
2002 **1854 Octagonal 25¢. BG-105. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Pale olive-gold iridescence. Traces of prooflike character can be seen in the fields.

Die State I: Upper hair touches back of coronet.



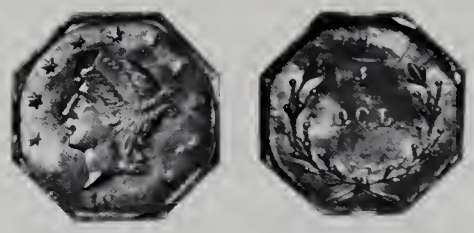
2003 **1855/4 Octagonal 25¢. BG-106. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Brilliant with frosty devices and mirrorlike fields. An attractive example of one of the Type I issues actually struck for use as a circulating medium during the heady days of the California Gold Rush.

Die State I: Raised mark (die rust) on Liberty's cheek.



2004 **1856-FD Octagonal 25¢. BG-107. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-63 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Olive-gold toning complements both surfaces with splashes of blue on the reverse.

Die State IV (III in first edition): Dramatically repolished to remove clash marks, reverse rusty, date crumbling, now resembles "1866."



2005 **1854 Octagonal 25¢. BG-108. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-62 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Federal style head of Liberty resembles that on the Type I U.S. gold dollars of the era. Brilliant, with frosty devices and satiny fields.

2006 **Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-221. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-64 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Dies aligned 180°. Brilliant and satiny. Close to the pinnacle of quality for the variety; PCGS has certified just two examples of the variety at a finer grade.
PCGS Population: 24; 2 finer (MS-66 finest).
Die State III: Obverse crack from rim to star 9.

2007 **Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-221. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Brilliant and frosty. Miss Liberty's hair details show bold definition. A delightful Period One issue in all regards.
Die State III: Obverse crack from rim to star 9.

2008 **Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-222. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-64 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Fully lustrous and mostly brilliant with some wisps of rich saffron gold. Two examples of this variety were recovered from the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott,* which went down off the coast of California in December, 1853.
Die State II: Die crack through top of wreath and numerator in fraction.

2009 **Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-222. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-64 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Brilliant and frosty. Miss Liberty's hair and the wreath's foliage show bold definition.
Die State II: Die crack through top of wreath and numerator in fraction.

2010 **Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-222. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-64 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. The design elements are frosty and fields are satiny.
Die State I: Perfect dies.

2011 **Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-222. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-64 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Intermingled olive-gold, pink, and lilac iridescence.
Die State II: Die crack through top of wreath and numerator in fraction.

2012 **Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-222. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-62 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Satiny and mostly brilliant with some blushes and splashes of coppery gold on the reverse.
Die State II: Die crack through top of wreath and numerator in fraction.

2013 **Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-222. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-62 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Brilliant with frosty devices. The fields exhibit considerable prooflike character.
Die State II: Die crack through top of wreath and numerator in fraction.

2014 **Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-222. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-60 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Pale olive-gold iridescence. A final example of a popular Period One piece.
Die State I: Perfect dies.

2015 **Undated (1854?) Round 25¢. BG-224. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-64 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Brilliant with nicely reflective fields. A splendid example of the variety when taken within the context of the grade—PCGS has certified only *one* example of the variety at a finer grade.
PCGS Population: 22; 1 finer (MS-65).
Die State II: Faint reverse cracks from rim

2016 **Undated (1854?) Round 25¢. BG-224. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Intermingled olive-gold and pink iridescence complements satiny surfaces.
PCGS Population: 22; 1 finer (MS-65).
Die State II: Faint reverse cracks from rim

2017 **1856 Round 25¢. BG-230. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-63 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Mostly brilliant with hints of lilac and orange.
Die State I: Faint crack on Liberty's neck.

2018 **1854 Octagonal 50¢. BG-305. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-63 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Intermingled blue, pink, and orange toning on lustrous surfaces. Among the finest examples of the date graded by PCGS; above MS-63 the population thins dramatically.
PCGS Population: 26; 8 finer (MS-66 finest).
Die State I: Perfect dies.

2019 **1854 Octagonal 50¢. BG-305. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. AU-58 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Brilliant and satiny, and a nice coin for the grade.
Die State I: Perfect dies.

2020 **1854-N Octagonal 50¢. BG-308. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Satiny and mostly brilliant with some blushes of coppery gold. Small federal style head of Liberty.

2021 1856-N Octagonal 50¢. BG-311. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-62 (PCGS). Weakly reeded or plain edge. Partially brilliant with blushes of lilac and orange.

Die State I: Perfect dies.

Both "Plain Edge" and "Weakly Reeded Edge" types have been listed by the editors of the recently published Breen-Gillio reference.

Popular 1852 Liberty Head Round 50¢
Perhaps Earliest Small Denomination Gold Issue

2022 1852 Round 50¢. BG-401. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS). Reeded edge. A bright yellow gold specimen with distinctive olive highlights. Undeniably choice for the assigned grade, with strong eye appeal and equally strong physical quality. One example of this variety was recovered from the 1853 wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*. Perhaps the first of the California Small Denomination gold issues.

It is currently believed that the present issue, BG-401 (or perhaps BG-426 or 427) was the first fractional California issue made, as it very closely answers the description of a coin described in the June 19, 1852 edition of the New Orleans *Dailey Picayune*.

2023 1853/2-DN Round 50¢. BG-409. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS). Reeded edge. Satiny yellow gold with distinctive olive and orange highlights on the obverse, and with much yellow brilliance on the reverse. Only seven examples of this variety have received a finer grade from PCGS, all of those at the MS-64 level. A popular overdate with "apparent middle stroke of 2 visible from cusps to lower knob of 3" on the reverse, according to Bob Leonard's description.

PCGS Population: 18; 7 finer (MS-64 finest).

Die State IV (III in first edition): Struck from a heavily shattered reverse die.

2024 1853/2-DN Round 50¢. BG-409. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS). Reeded edge. Largely prooflike with a nuance of pale olive toning on bright yellow gold surfaces. Splashes of pale rose adorn the reverse.

Die State II: Faint cracks at NIA G and from wreath to 3 in date.

2025 1853 Round 50¢. BG-428. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS). Reeded edge. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with traces of olive. Definitely choice for the grade designation, with impeccable overall eye appeal! PCGS has certified just five examples of the variety at a finer grade than the present coin.

PCGS Population: 23; 5 finer (MS-65 finest).

Die State I: Perfect dies.

2026 1853 Round 50¢. BG-428. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS). Reeded edge. Bright and reflective yellow gold with definite olive highlights. Prooflike and appealing in all regards.

Die State II (I in first edition): Faint reverse crack joins tops of wreath and extend down through 5 to right of bow.

2027 1853 Round 50¢. BG-429. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. AU-58 (PCGS). Reeded edge. Rich honey gold with lively orange iridescent highlights. Somewhat prooflike and thoroughly attractive for the grade.

Die State I: Obverse cracks and reverse rim breaks not yet formed.

From the Bruce Collection, as noted on the PCGS holder.

2028 1853 Round 50¢. BG-430. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS). Reeded edge. Bright olive-gold with intense lustre and a great degree of appeal for the assigned grade. Three examples of this variety were recovered from the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*, which sank December 1, 1853 off the coast of California. Bob Leonard noted that this variety was "illustrated as current money on cover of Dye's 1854 or 1855 cambist, valued at 48 cents; same cut used on cover of *Hodges' Gold & Silver Coin Chart Manual*, also at 48 cents (circa 1858), later (1861) with value reduced to 32 cents."

Die State I: Both dies perfect.

Popular 1853-FD Octagonal $1

2029 **1853-FD Octagonal $1. BG-505. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. AU-58 (PCGS).** Reeded or plain edge. Bright yellow gold with reflective prooflike fields and lightly frosted motifs. A nuance of pale olive graces the fields, while a burst of rich rose adorns Liberty's tresses. Popular variety with invert G in GOLD on reverse.

Die State II: Reverse polished, with portions of the legends there fragmented.

2030 **1853-N Octagonal $1. BG-530. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. AU-58 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Lustrous and highly brilliant yellow gold with distinct olive highlights. A nice coin for the grade; indeed, most would call this Mint State. Perhaps 15 or 16 examples of this popular gold dollar issue were found aboard the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*, suggesting that the firm of Antoine Louis Nouizillet made this particular variety in quantity for circulation purposes.

2031 **1853-N Octagonal $1. BG-530. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. AU-58 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Deep yellow gold with some warm olive highlights. Splashes of intense orange iridescence grace the reverse.

2032 **1853-N Octagonal $1. BG-530. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. AU-55 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Bright yellow gold with generous amounts of lustre remaining.

2033 **1853-N Octagonal $1. BG-530. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. AU-53 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Muted lustre on olive-gold surfaces. Splashes of rich orange-gold can be seen in the reverse devices. PCGS holder marked "Brand" suggesting this coin is from the Virgil Brand Collection.

Unbelievably, Virgil Brand, an accumulator *en masse*, owned 15 specimens of this variety, making precise pedigree information nearly impossible to discern. The pieces were sold as lots 890 through 904 in Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.'s sale of the Brand Collection, Part I, November 1983. Of the 15, not a single one was graded Mint State. All were acquired between 1898 and 1918.

2034 **1853-N Octagonal $1. BG-530. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. AU-50 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Warm honey gold with bright orange iridescence.

2035 **1853-N Octagonal $1. BG-531. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. AU-58 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Intensely brilliant and lustrous yellow gold with mirror fields and frosty motifs. Another variety that was represented in the coins taken from the 1853 wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*.

2036 **1855-NR Octagonal $1. BG-533. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. AU-53 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Muted honey gold with sky blue, orange, and rose iridescence on somewhat prooflike surfaces. A popular variety that is typically found VF to AU, indicating acceptance as circulating currency medium despite very low average weight of these pieces; "some weigh less than some 1853 half dollars" according to Bob Leonard.

Die State I: Prooflike polished dies; in a later state, both Liberty's lips are separated from her portrait, and the leading edge of the coronet all but disappears at the bottom.

2037 **1866 Octagonal 25¢. BG-708. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+. MS-62 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Deep and lustrous honey gold with strong orange highlights in the protected areas. Somewhat prooflike. A pleasing coin for the grade.

2038 **1870 Octagonal 25¢. BG-713. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Deep honey gold with substantial orange and olive highlights on both sides. Nicely struck on the obverse, weakly struck on the reverse, as typically seen for this die combination.

2039 **1871 Octagonal 25¢. BG-714. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. A brilliant and lustrous olive-gold specimen with deeply mirrored fields and frosty motifs. Definitely choice Mint State; many would see it as even a finer grade.

2040 **1871 Octagonal 25¢. BG-717. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-65 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Subdued golden lustre on satiny olive-gold surfaces. Somewhat prooflike in the fields, and with all the eye appeal and quality necessary to claim the MS-65 grade.

Die State III (II in the first edition): Obverse heavily repolished, nose and front of coronet incomplete, many stars distorted. On the reverse, rust obscures the stem of the lower most inside right berry.

2041 **1871 Octagonal 25¢. BG-717. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-65 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Bright and lively olive-gold with strong cameo contrast. A beautiful gem in all regards.

Die State II: Repolished obverse with nose details just beginning to separate, front of coronet basically intact. This die state is called "Extremely rare" in the second edition of the Breen-Gillio reference.

2042 **1868-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-746. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+. MS-62 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Deep honey gold with intense yellow and orange iridescence highlights. Fully prooflike and highly attractive for the grade. One of the varieties with the reverse fraction in a federal style shield. In July 1871, the British Museum purchased an example of this variety from Lincoln & Sons, showing that this variety was known scant few years after its appearance. PCGS has certified fewer than a dozen examples of this variety in higher grades, none of those above MS-64.

PCGS Population: 19; 11 finer (MS-64 finest).

Die State I: Faint obverse crack from rim to point of coronet.

2043 **1870-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-759. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Bright yellow gold with prooflike surfaces and splash of rose on Miss Liberty's portrait. According to Bob Leonard, "X-ray florescence analysis of Jay Roe specimen showed pure gold plated over baser gold (slightly over 14K)." A specimen of this variety was presented to the American Numismatic Society in April 1908 by J. Sanford Saltus. PCGS has certified fewer than a dozen examples of this variety in higher grades.

PCGS Population: 23; 11 (MS-65 finest).

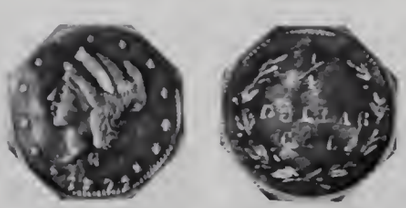
2044 **1870-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-763. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. EF-40 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Variety with incomplete G marker's mark. Rich honey gold with generous amounts of lustre in the protected areas. A pleasing coin for the grade.

2045 **1871-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-765. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-61 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Warm yellow gold with strong lustre and a nuance of olive iridescence. A prooflike specimen that is both attractive and choice for the assigned grade.

2046 **1871-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-765. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. AU-58 (PCGS).** Plain edge. A highly lustrous prooflike specimen with reflective fields and frosted motifs. Splashes of deep orange iridescence grace the peripheries. Choice for the grade.

2047 **1871-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-767. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Bright yellow gold with lively orange iridescence. Fully prooflike and cameo in appearance. A pleasing coin overall. Both dies show signs of imminent shattering.

2048 **1871-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-767. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-61 (PCGS).** Plain edge. An intensely prooflike specimen with strong lustre on bright yellow gold surfaces. Decidedly choice for the grade.



2049 **1871-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-768. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Deep and sultry orange-gold with highly reflective fields and frosty motifs. Choice for the grade.

2050 **1880 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799X. Indian Head. Rarity-3. MS-64 (PCGS).** Plain edge. A splendid prooflike example of a popular Indian Head issue, a coin that may just easily be called MS-65. Struck in "gold plated 9K gold," according to Bob Leonard. Slightly over a dozen examples of the variety have been graded finer by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 52; 14 finer (MS-65 finest).

Die State II: Top of bow in wreath crudely recut, now extending to left.

2051 **1868 Round 25¢. BG-806. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-65 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded or plain edge. A bright and frosty gem with pale rose, sky blue, and orange iridescence. Nicely struck and aesthetically appealing. Just a dozen examples of this variety have been granted a finer grade by PCGS, all of those called MS-66.

PCGS Population: 46; 12 finer (MS-66 finest).

Die State I: No reverse die break.

2052 **1870 Round 25¢. BG-808. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-64 (PCGS).** Plain edge. A splendid example of the grade and variety, with outstanding eye appeal and brisk lustre. Somewhat prooflike, with reflective surfaces and lightly frosted motifs. An extraordinary coin in all regards.

Die State II: Reverse repolished, 1 and 4 in fraction not touching, top of O in DOLLAR and top of 0 in date open.

2053 **1870 Round 25¢. BG-808. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Intensely lustrous orange-gold. Extraordinary eye appeal for the assigned grade, a coin that many would consider to be a finer grade. Worthy of serious bidder consideration.

2054 **1871 Round 25¢. BG-813. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Reflective fields and frosted motifs show strong lustre and splashes of rich orange-gold. A pleasing coin for the grade.

Die State I: Bridge of Liberty's nose lightly "broken" from die polishing, no reverse die crack.

2055 **1871 Round 25¢. BG-813. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Warm olive-gold with definite prooflike qualities. Lustrous.

Die State I.

2056 **1871 Round 25¢. BG-813. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-61 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Warm honey gold with pale sky blue highlights on frosty motifs and mirrored fields. From Die State II of the dies, and considerably rarer than its Die State I counterpart.

Die State II: Severely rusted obverse, eye details indistinct. On the reverse, cracks in the lower right wreath join the rim at the 4:00 position.

2057 **1873 Round 25¢. BG-817. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-64 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Frosty olive-gold with strong underlying lustre. A pleasing example of the variety and grade.

2058 **1873 Round 25¢. BG-817. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Bright and lustrous olive-gold with somewhat reflective fields and frosted motifs. Decidedly choice for the grade.

2059 **1873 Round 25¢. BG-817. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. A delightfully brilliant prooflike example of the variety. Yellow gold fields support frosty motifs. Miss Liberty's portrait glows with rich rose iridescence.

2060 **1865 Round 25¢. BG-822. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. MS-61 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Warm deep gold and rose iridescence and strong lustre on reflective fields and lightly frosted motifs.

2061 **1870-G Round 25¢. BG-835. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with prooflike

fields and lightly frosted motifs. Pale olive iridescence adds to the overall eye appeal. Choice of the grade. The variety with a straight border at the dentils immediately above Liberty's head.

2062 **1870-G Round 25¢. BG-835. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Intensely brilliant mirror fields and frosty motifs display deep, rich orange iridescence. A lovely example of the variety, especially for the assigned grade.

2063 **1870-G Round 25¢. BG-835. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Another prooflike specimen, this medium orange-gold with strong lustre and excellent eye appeal for the assigned grade.

2064 **1870-G Round 25¢. BG-835. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. AU-58 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Bright sky blue and deep golden toning on reflective fields and satiny motifs. A nice opportunity for an alert mail bidder!

Choice 1871-G Round Liberty 25¢
Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

2065 **1871-G Round 25¢. BG-838. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-64 (PCGS).** Plain edge. A splendid example of the variety. Frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields reflect intense gold and pale olive highlights. Variety with repunched G maker's mark on obverse. From the late, heavily polished state of the dies. PCGS has not certified a finer example of this variety. Decidedly choice for the grade.
PCGS Population: 20; none finer.

2066 **1871-G Round 25¢. BG-838. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-64 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Deep honey gold with frosty motifs and reflective fields. Splashes of rich orange-gold on both sides. No example of the variety has been graded finer by PCGS.
PCGS Population: 20; none finer.

2067 **1871-G Round 25¢. BG-838. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. A startlingly attractive example of the variety and assigned grade. Deep orange-gold mirrors and frosty motifs. Another great opportunity for an attentive mail bid patron.

2068 **1871-G Round 25¢. BG-838. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Muted olive iridescence on high reflective fields and lightly frosted motifs.

2069 **1871-G Round 25¢. BG-838. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Rich orange-gold highlights on prooflike surfaces and somewhat satiny motifs.

2070 **1871-G Round 25¢. BG-838. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Prooflike fields and frosty motifs support lustrous splashes of pale sky blue and olive.

2071 **1871-G Round 25¢. BG-839. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Bright yellow gold mirrors and frosted motifs display delightful olive iridescence. Another of the varieties with a repunched G maker's mark on the obverse beneath Liberty's portrait.

2072 **1871-G Round 25¢. BG-839. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Muted shades of iridescent rose, gold, and sky blue on lightly frosted motifs and mirrored fields.

2073 **1871-G Round 25¢. BG-840. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Bright yellow gold with distinctive pale green highlights. A pleasing example for the grade, and certainly at the "high-end" of that grade. Another of the varieties with repunched G beneath Liberty's portrait.

2074 **1871-G Round 25¢. BG-840. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Wisps of pale sky blue and rose on lightly frosted motifs and somewhat satiny, reflective fields.

2075 **1871-G Round 25¢. BG-840. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-60 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Deep honey gold with somewhat reflective fields and frosted motifs. Much finer than the assigned grade implies.

2076 **1875 Round 25¢. BG-847. Indian Head. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Deep honey gold with rich rose iridescence in the fields. Somewhat prooflike, especially so on the reverse. One of the Small Indian Head varieties. The present variety was struck on planchets which contained a high silver content, thus accounting for the deep, rich toning that frequently is found on examples of this variety.

2077 **1876 Round 25¢. BG-854. Liberty Head or "Baby" Head. Rarity-5-. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Deep orange-gold mirrors support frosty motifs. Richly toned and aesthetically appealing.

with plenty of overall quality and eye appeal for the assigned grade. An altogether pleasing example of a moderately scarce and popular design type within the series.

2078 **1871-H Round 25¢. BG-865. Liberty Head. Rarity-5. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Deep honey gold with strong lustre and splashes of rich orange iridescence. The "Largest Head" variety from the firm of Hershfield & Mitchell in Leavenworth, Kansas. Scarce in all grades; PCGS has certified fewer than 11 examples of this variety at a finer grade.

PCGS Population: 12; 11 finer (MS-54 finest).

2079 **1870 Round 25¢. BG-867. Liberty Head or "Goofy Head." Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. Warm honey gold with reflective fields and frosted motifs. A nuance of pale olive is noted in the fields and a dash of pale rose adorns Miss Liberty's portrait. A popular design type from an unknown maker (referred to as "Unknown Maker C" in the 2003 edition of the Breen-Gillio reference). Fewer than 10 examples of this popular variety have certified finer by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 14; 8 finer (MS-64 finest).

2080 **1870 Round 25¢. BG-867. Liberty Head or "Goofy" Head. Rarity-4. MS-61 (PCGS).** Reeded edge. A decidedly choice example of the variety and grade, with impressive prooflike surfaces and lightly frosted motifs.

2081 **1872/1 Round 25¢. BG-869. Indian Head. Rarity-4-. MS-64 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. An exceptionally gorgeous example of the issue. Heavily mirrored fields and frosted motifs display intense orange-gold iridescence. PCGS has certified fewer than a dozen examples of this variety in finer grades; they must be truly spectacular specimens to compete with the present coin! Definitely choice and worthy of your strongest bid.

PCGS Population: 37; 11 finer (MS-66 finest).

2082 **1872/1 Round 25¢. BG-870. Indian Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Muted lustre on olive-gold mirror fields and lightly frosted motifs. A touch of rose iridescence adorns the high points.

2083 **1874 Round 25¢. BG-876. Indian Head. Rarity-4-. MS-64 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Frosty olive-gold with some prooflike reflectivity and frosty, mattelike devices. Struck from a shattered reverse die.

PCGS Population: 36; 9 finer (MS-65 finest).

2084 **1874 Round 25¢. BG-876. Indian Head. Rarity-4-. MS-64 (PCGS).** Plain edge. An extraordinary example of the grade and design type. Deep mirror fields and frosted motifs exhibit deep, rich golden iridescence. Perhaps "as nice as they come" for the assigned grade.

2085 **1874 Round 25¢. BG-876. Indian Head. Rarity-4-. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Another splendid representative of the design type and assigned grade. Deeply mirrored fields and frosty motifs with medium to deep golden orange iridescence. Decidedly choice for the grade.

2086 **1880/76 Round 25¢. BG-885. Indian Head. Rarity-3. MS-64 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Struck on a somewhat wavy planchet, not an unusual occurrence for the design type. Rich rose, pale violet, and pale sky blue iridescence on deep orange-gold surfaces. A nice cameo contrast exists between the mirrored fields and frosted motifs.

2087 **1880/76 Round 25¢. BG-885. Indian Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Bright yellow gold with dynamic olive highlights on mirror fields and frosty motifs.

2088 **1881 Round 25¢. BG-887. Indian Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Deep golden highlights on honey gold mirror fields and frosted motifs. Splashes of iridescence sky blue adorn the high points.

2089 **1873 Octagonal 50¢. BG-915. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. A lovely example of the variety and grade. Somewhat reflective fields and frosty motifs display warm rose and pale blue iridescence.

2090 **1864-C (actually a faulty or lightly impressed G maker's mark) Octagonal 50¢. BG-918. Liberty Head. Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Also called the "Caricature Head" variety. A splendid medium orange-gold specimen with deeper orange highlights in the protected areas. Prooflike, and choice for the grade as well. PCGS has certified fewer than a half dozen examples of this variety at a finer grade, none of those above MS-64. The present lot spells *o-p-p-o-r-t-u-n-i-t-y* to us!

PCGS Population: 15; 5 finer (MS-64 finest).

2091 **1870-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-920. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+. MS-62 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge, reeded after striking. Highly lustrous honey gold with a satiny, somewhat reflective fields surrounding frosted motifs. An apostrophe between CAL and GOLD on reverse. Fewer than 10 examples of this variety have been certified by PCGS, none of those above MS-63.

PCGS Population: 20; 9 finer (MS-63 finest).

1871-G Octagonal 50¢

2092 **1871-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-924. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Variety with triple-punched maker's mark. Warm yellow gold with distinctive olive highlights. Prooflike fields and frosty motifs.

1871-G Octagonal 50¢

2093 **1871-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-924. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Pale olive-gold with prooflike surfaces. Wisps of pale sky blue glow warmly in the recessed areas.

1871-G Octagonal 50¢

2094 **1871-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-924. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Bright honey gold with distinct orange-gold iridescence. Prooflike fields.

1871-G Octagonal 50¢

2095 **1871-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-924. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-62 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Deep violet iridescence on rich honey gold mirror fields and frosty motifs.

1871-G Octagonal 50¢

2096 **1871-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-924. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. AU-53. (PCGS). Deep** honey gold with sky blue iridescence on the high points. A lightly circulated but still highly attractive specimen.

Popular 1870 Round 50¢
"DOLIAR" Variety

2097 **1870 Round 50¢. BG-1010. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. MS-63 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. The popular DOLIAR variety, now recognized as a spacing a problem and not a case of poor spelling. Deep honey gold with strong violet, rose, and olive highlights. Choice for the grade.

2098 **1870 Round 50¢. BG-1010. Liberty Head. Rarity-3. AU-58 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. A lightly circulated example of the popular DOLIAR variety.

2099 **1871 Round 50¢. BG-1011. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-65 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Bright and lustrous olive-gold with somewhat reflective fields and lightly frosted motifs. Splashes of pale rose enhance the overall appeal. Fewer than 10 examples of this variety have received a finer grade from PCGS.
PCGS Population: 24; 7 finer (MS-66 finest).

2100 **1871 Round 50¢. BG-1011. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-65 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Intense bursts of violet, medium electric blue, and orange grace the lustrous prooflike obverse, while the reverse is nearly fully brilliant with just a hint of olive iridescence. A lovely gem example of the variety.
PCGS Population: 24; 7 finer (MS-66 finest).

2101 **1871 Round 50¢. BG-1011. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-64 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Deep yellow gold with attractive olive highlights. Decidedly choice of the assigned grade.

2102 **1871 Round 50¢. BG-1011. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-64 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Muted lustre on pale honey gold surfaces. Light sky blue iridescence on the high points.

2103 **1871 Round 50¢. BG-1011. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-64 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Warm honey gold beneath rich sky blue and rose iridescence.

2104 **1871 Round 50¢. BG-1011. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-63 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Deep honey gold with intense violet and sky blue iridescence. Prooflike.

2105 **1871 Round 50¢. BG-1011. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-63 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Muted olive-gold with rose iridescence on the high points.

2106 **1871 Round 50¢. BG-1011. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-63 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Deep mirror fields and frosty motifs display warm honey gold and pale olive iridescence.

2107 **1871 Round 50¢. BG-1011. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-63 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Subdued lustre on pleasing, satiny honey gold surfaces. Somewhat prooflike, especially on the reverse.

2108 **1871 Round 50¢. BG-1011. Liberty Head. Rarity-2. MS-62 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Intense electric blue and rose iridescence on deeply mirrored fields and frosted motifs. For those who appreciate richly toned 19th-century coins.

2109 **1867-G Round 50¢. BG-1018. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+. MS-62 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded or plain edge. Intensely bright orange-gold with deeply mirrored fields and lightly frosted motifs. An exemplary example of a moderately rare issue. PCGS has assigned a higher grade to fewer than 10 examples of the present variety, making the coin offered here all the more alluring despite MS-62 status.
PCGS Population: 21; 9 finer (MS-64 finest).

2110 **1859-G Round 50¢. BG-1020. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-63 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Deep and rich orange iridescence on heavily mirrored fields and succinctly frosted motifs. Some faint, scattered obverse scratches probably account for the grade; the reverse is considerably finer than the obverse. For the record, PCGS has certified just two examples of this date at a finer grade!
PCGS Population: 10; 2 finer (MS-65 finest).

2111 **1859-G Round 50¢. BG-1020. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-62 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Subdued lustre on rich orange-gold surfaces. Somewhat prooflike in appearance.

2112 **1859-G Round 50¢. BG-1020. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-62 (PCGS).** Crudely reeded edge. Deep honey gold with olive highlights on prooflike surfaces.

2113 **1870-G Round 50¢. BG-1024. Liberty Head. Rarity-4-. MS-62 (PCGS).** Weakly reeded edge. Deep honey gold with broadly reflective fields and lightly frosted motifs. One of the varieties struck on reddish gold planchets that were plated with yellow gold. Only 16 examples of this issue have received higher grades from PCGS.
PCGS Population: 32; 16 finer (MS-65 finest).

2114 1871-G Round 50¢. BG-1027, Die State I (formerly BG-1026A). Liberty Head. Rarity-5. MS-63 (PCGS). Plain edge. Deep yellow gold with splashes of warm orange and pale olive iridescence. A popular variety that once bore the attribution number BG-1026A, but has since been reclassified as BG-1027 in the latest edition of Breen-Gillio reference. There, Bob Leonard noted "State I, obverse as 1026. Erroneously reported as BG-1026A; PCGS population report shows many certified and holdered as BG-1026A. Has been certified by ICG as 1027A. Rarity-5." A scarce variety regardless of attribution number assigned.

Interestingly enough, the present coin is one of just five MS-63 specimens certified by PCGS as BG-1026A, with none graded finer.

2115 1871-G Round 50¢. BG-1027, Die State I (formerly BG-1026A). Liberty Head. Rarity-5. MS-63 (PCGS). Plain edge. Bright yellow gold with prooflike mirror fields and lightly textured motifs. A choice example of the grade and type.

2116 1871-G Round 50¢. BG-1027, Die State I (formerly BG-1026A). Liberty Head. Rarity-5. MS-61 (PCGS). Plain edge. Medium honey gold, bright yellow and pale rose iridescence. Fully prooflike and quite attractive for the assigned grade.

2117 1871-G Round 50¢. BG-1027 (also called BG-1026A). Liberty Head. Rarity-5. MS-62 (PCGS). Plain edge. Intense orange-gold on reflective fields and lustrous devices. Choice for the grade.

2118 1871-G Round 50¢. BG-1027 (also called BG-1026A). Liberty Head. Rarity-5. MS-62 (PCGS). Plain edge. Deep honey gold with warm iridescent orange highlights. Some faint hairlines on the prooflike surfaces keep this from a much finer grade.

2119 1871-G Round 50¢. BG-1033. Liberty Head. Rarity-5. MS-62 (PCGS). Plain edge. Distinctly prooflike with highly reflective fields and frosty motifs. Splashes of pale iridescence sky blue and rose seen on both sides. A scarce variety that is always in demand.

PCGS Population: 7; 7 finer (MS-65 finest).

Die State II: Die crack from rim past points of sixth star to hair above Liberty's forehead; on some examples, this crack extends across Liberty's portrait to the rim near the 12th star.

Choice Uncirculated 1870 "Goofy" Head 50¢

2120 1870 Round 50¢. BG-1047. Liberty or "Goofy" Head. Rarity-4+. MS-63 (PCGS). Crudely reeded or plain edge. Absolutely prooflike in appearance, with deep mirror fields and lightly frosted motifs. This variety is known to be struck on silver cores with gold plating. The popular "Goofy" Head variety, currently attributed to "Unknown Maker C." Nineteenth century collector Jules Fonrobert owned an example of this variety as early as 1877 according to Bob Leonard's research in the newest edition *California Pioneer Fractional Gold*. Among the finest examples of the variety graded PCGS, and a distinctive type within the California Small Denomination gold series.

PCGS Population: 9; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

2121 1872 Round 50¢. BG-1048. Indian Head. Rarity-4-. MS-63 (PCGS). Plain edge. Bright yellow gold with distinctive olive highlights. Definitely prooflike in appearance, and just as definitely choice for the assigned grade. One of the Large Indian Head varieties.

2122 1875/3 Round 50¢. BG-1058. Indian Head. Rarity-4+. AU-58 (PCGS). Plain edge. Intense, deep golden lustre on yellow gold surfaces. Splashes of strong orange brilliance grace the high points. A variety struck on baser red-gold planchets with yellow gold plating. One of many popular overdates in the California Small Denomination gold series.

Die State I: Fraction bar consists of two end fragments without a center portion, tops of O and R in DOLLAR incomplete (BG-1058 features a later reverse die state of BG-1057).

2123 **1876/5 Round 50¢. BG-1059. Indian Head. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Intense yellow gold with strong and vibrant orange iridescent highlights. An incredibly attractive coin for the assigned grade, one that would make an outstanding highlight in any type collection.

From the same obverse die as BG-1058, which is an 1875/3 Overdate. On BG-1059, the variety offered here, the final numeral has been crudely altered in the die by the maker (Christopher Ferdinand Mohrig, San Francisco).

2124 **1880/70 Round 50¢. BG-1067. Indian Head. Rarity-4-. MS-61 (PCGS).** Plain edge. Deep yellow gold with reflective fields and frosty motifs. Splashes of iridescent sky blue grace the feathers of the Indian's headdress. A variety struck on "yellow gold plated over baser core," according to Bob Leonard's notes. An example of this variety was presented to the British Museum in December 1884 by one Mr. H. G. Babcock.

Die State I: Corner of 7 plain at right top of second 8 in date (this disappears and becomes Die State II).

2125 **1881 Round 50¢. BG-1069. Indian Head. Rarity-4+. AU-58 (PCGS).** Plain edge. A splendid example of the design type. Deeply mirrored fields and frosty motifs exhibit rich orange iridescence. Definitely choice for the grade.

Die State II: Obverse die reground to remove a spur that points downward from the fourth obverse star (in Die State I).

2126 **1868-G Octagonal $1. BG-1105. Liberty Head. Rarity-4+. AU-53 (PCGS).** Plain edge. The "Necklace Bust" variety; Liberty wears a string of five pearls around her neck. Deep honey gold with a mix of violet and electric blue. Weakly struck at the center, as typical for the variety. An attractive, lightly circulated example of a fairly scarce gold dollar issue.

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